



Nigeria

Bringing Reproductive Health Services to the Community

In Nigeria, CEDPA is focused on helping non-governmental organizations (NGOs) implement family planning (FP), reproductive health (RH), child survival, and HIV/AIDS services. In addition, CEDPA seeks to promote an enabling environment that strengthens women's RH decision making and encourages civil society to participate in the democratic process and respect civil rights.

Major areas of the ENABLE project's RH work during 1998-2002 were:

- Expanding FP, RH, and HIV/AIDS prevention services in urban and rural communities, through its work with 12 partner organizations.
- Launching community-level efforts to provide economic, social, and psychosocial support to both children and their caregivers who were made vulnerable by the effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Building partnerships with faith-based organizations to respond to the RH needs of their members and the escalating HIV/AIDS crisis.
- Providing support to community-based organizations to empower women for RH decision making and improve their knowledge of and participation in democratic processes.

Community-Based Delivery of RH Services

CEDPA supported 12 partner organizations in Anambra, Ekiti, Kano, Lagos, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, and Plateau States to provide comprehensive RH services for women, men, and adolescents. In the project areas, CEDPA partners implemented five models:



- 1. Sale of subsidized contraceptive.** Two of the 12 partner agencies used a social marketing model for FP commodities distribution, which resulted in 65 percent of the couple years of protection (CYP) generated in Nigeria under the ENABLE project during 1998-2002.
- 2. Community-based distribution (CBD).** Eight NGO partners supported community-based volunteers who distributed condoms, pills, and other health products in Ekiti, Kano, Lagos, Ondo, Oyo, and Plateau States. These volunteers also had an important role in generating demand for RH services. Some partners linked with traditional health providers. For example, the Christian Health Association of Nigeria trained traditional birth attendants to provide community-based RH services in Oyo State.

3. Clinical service provision and referrals. The Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) has incorporated FP services and HIV/AIDS counseling and testing in its 150 clinics, linked to communities with trained volunteers. Five Community Partners for Health clinics also provide clinical RH services. All CBD programs refer clients to nearby clinical services.

4. Market-based provision of contraceptives. In Anambra and Osun States, the National Council of Women's Societies (NCWS) trained market traders to sell condoms, pills, and other contraceptives and to educate customers on RH issues. NCWS served over 140,000 FP clients.

5. Peer health educators. Eight partner agencies support trained peer health educators (PHEs) who provide counseling and non-clinical contraceptives to other youth. Roughly half of their clients are male, and thus the PHEs are helping to change the attitudes of young men to ensure more responsible sexual behavior.

During October 2001 to September 2002, CEDPA's partner agencies provided RH services to roughly 876,000 clients, generating a total 55,950 CYP.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children

In Benue State, CEDPA piloted an innovative project to provide comprehensive support to orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers by providing health care, education, and income-generating activities. CEDPA worked with two partners – the Catholic Women Organization and Opiatoha Kayin Idoma Multipurpose Cooperative Society – to implement this project. Currently 1,000 orphans are receiving education and health care, and 700 caregivers are receiving social and material support through income-generating activities in two Local Government Areas. The project has lever-

aged both human and material resources from state and local governments, as well as land, agricultural, and micro-level food processing materials and labor from the community.

In Rivers State, CEDPA worked with Africare to enhance the capacities of local community-based organizations to provide health care and education for orphans and vulnerable children as well as their caregivers.



Partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations

CEDPA provided training to religious leaders and their institutions to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS in their communities through counseling and community mobilization strategies. In addition to its work with COCIN (summarized in a separate *Highlights*), CEDPA has worked with other Nigerian faith-based organizations. In Anambra State, the Anglican Diocese of Nnewi counseled 1,034 members on HIV/AIDS issues and provided 16,412 students with HIV/AIDS information. In Osun State, the Catholic Diocese of Osogbo trained its 196 priests and religious leaders to counsel, mobilize, and advocate on HIV/AIDS issues.

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