CDC in Nigeria

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) office in Nigeria was established in 2001. To achieve CDC-Nigeria’s vision of “Public Health Excellence for Healthy Nigerians” the office supports the Nigerian federal and state Ministries of Health (MOHs) in the development, implementation, and evaluation of disease response efforts and programs that contribute to strengthened public health infrastructure and service delivery models in Nigeria.

HIV/AIDS

Through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the CDC Nigeria office provides technical assistance to help the federal and state level MOHs implement effective, efficient HIV programs. This support has contributed to saving the lives of men, women, and children through HIV treatment services and a robust combination prevention strategy. Using a data-driven approach, this strategy is tailored to the unique characteristics of the local epidemic for maximum health impact.

Working closely with the MOH, CDC supports the scale-up of high-quality HIV prevention, interventions including HIV treatment and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services. Other key activities include improving and expanding HIV counseling, and testing, and TB/HIV integrated service delivery. Health system strengthening support includes building country capacity in the areas of workforce development, operational research, epidemiology, surveillance, health information systems, and program monitoring and evaluation to assess program performance and making course corrections to keep pace with changes in the local epidemic.

Specific laboratory capacity building efforts have included the expansion of laboratory services to support the rapid scale-up of HIV treatment services as well as the establishment of a national reference lab capable of performing diagnostics for TB and other infectious and noninfectious diseases. CDC is also providing support for Phase II field evaluation of HIV rapid test kits and the development of the National Medical Laboratory Strategic Plan.

Source: GBD Compare 2015, Nigeria
Global Health Security Agenda

The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) is a unifying framework to improve the global response to disease outbreaks and close gaps in surveillance and intervention. With a broad focus on health systems as opposed to disease-specific initiatives, GHSA builds upon existing programs and policies to improve health and spur progress toward full implementation of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR). While Nigeria has not formally signed on to the GHSA, the country agreed to meet its obligations under the IHR in 2005. CDC’s Division of Global Health Protection (DGHP) works with the government of Nigeria and other partners to achieve these requirements by focusing on workforce development, emergency response, surveillance, laboratory, and border health/point of entry interventions.

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

CDC, in collaboration with its partners, provides technical and financial support to Nigeria for polio eradication and measles pre-elimination activities. Field activities include campaign planning, monitoring and supervision, acute flaccid paralysis surveillance, outbreak investigations, nomads outreach, special projects, research, and data management support. Recently, the National Stop Transmission of Polio Program expanded to include specialized staff and activities to improve the delivery of routine immunization services across northern states.

Malaria

Under the U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), CDC assigned a Resident Advisor to Nigeria as part of an interagency team with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to support the MOH in implementing malaria prevention and control interventions. Activities include developing the framework for an improved routine health information system in select states and local government areas, in collaboration with PEPFAR; strengthening capacity for entomological monitoring at federal and state levels, including training in the CDC bottle bioassay and WHO tube techniques; and strengthening malaria diagnostics capacity by developing a quality assurance framework and using dried tube specimens for quality control of malaria rapid diagnostic tests.

National Public Health Institutes

CDC is providing technical assistance to the African Union in support of the establishment of the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention The Africa CDC, with a Coordination Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and five Regional Collaborating Centres across the continent, will house a surveillance and response unit and an Emergency Operations Centre. It will provide a platform for member states to share knowledge and tools across borders and to conduct transnational outbreak responses. The West African Regional Collaborating Centre for the Africa CDC will be housed in Nigeria. U.S. CDC is supporting fellowships to help staff this Regional Collaborating Centre with African epidemiologists.

Gender Equity and Response to Gender-Based Violence

Gender norms, inequalities, and violence increase women’s/girls’ and men’s/boys’ vulnerability to HIV due to multiple sociocultural factors, including limited ability to negotiate safer sex. It also encourages engaging in transactional sex and high-risk sexual behaviors and curtails the ability to get tested, disclose HIV status, and access HIV treatment because of real or perceived fear of violence and abandonment. CDC Nigeria, through its implementing partners, works to promote gender equity and equality in its HIV program by engaging women/girls and men/boys to address norms and behaviors that contribute to the HIV epidemic. CDC Nigeria also recognizes the intersections between gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV, and is providing comprehensive health services to survivors of GBV and providing referral linkages for nonclinical services.

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