

SUCCESS STORY – SIDHAS

Strengthening Integrated Delivery of HIV/AIDS Service (SIDHAS)

FY16

JIGAWA STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITS RESOURCES TO SUSTAIN GAINS IN HIV/AIDS RESPONSE



In November 2015, the Jigawa State Government surmounted one of the greatest obstacles to sustaining the

HIV response in Nigeria through the commitment of government resources beyond project implementation timeframes and available donor funding. The SIDHAS project, funded by USAID and implemented by FHI 360, has been working to increase Nigerian government ownership and stewardship in the delivery of quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services since 2011. As the SIDHAS project enters its fifth year of implementation, efforts to foster sustainability are gaining momentum through sustainability roadmap development campaigns in the 13 project supported states. This is in response to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Nigeria's priority shift towards increased government investment in the provision of HIV/AIDS services and the transition of donor support for specific project activities beginning fiscal year 2016 (October 2015 to September 2016).

In Jigawa State, SIDHAS supported the development of a sustainability roadmap during a three-day workshop held in October 2015 with participation from key

government officials from the Ministry of Health, State AIDS and STI Control Program (SASCP), community-based organizations, and the Jigawa State Agency for the Control of AIDS (JISACA). The document was thereafter shared with the State Governor for technical and financial approval.

During an advocacy visit by the SIDHAS team to the newly appointed Honorable Commissioner for Health, Dr. Abba Umar, in November 2015, he announced that the State Governor had approved the inclusion of all expenses in the sustainability roadmap in the annual state budget for 2016. The inclusion of the roadmap activities in the 2016 budget will ensure the availability of funds and continued support for key HIV related activities previously funded by SIDHAS and other donors such as The World Bank. Also during the meeting, Dr. Umar discussed plans to solicit private sector participation for the provision of affordable laboratory services, particularly for HIV positive clients.

Further to this great stride towards sustainability, the state has commenced plans, in collaboration with the National Agency for AIDS Control (NACA), to explore options and develop a plan for sustaining antiretroviral therapy (ART) services to 1000 clients currently enrolled through the Global Fund project implemented by Achieving Health Nigeria Initiative (AHNI), which is scheduled to close in December 2015. The Commissioner also mandated the immediate activation



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and inauguration of the previously non-functional State Management Team, responsible for coordinating the HIV response in the state. This landmark demonstration of increased political will and government ownership on the part of the Jigawa State Government is indeed a promising one in the fight against HIV in Nigeria.

RIVERS STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO SUSTAIN QUALITY SERVICES FOR PLHA

The Rivers State Government has committed to sustaining the funding and momentum built in the HIV/AIDS response by the PEPFAR funded, SIDHAS project. Her Excellency, Dr. (Mrs.) Ipalibo Harry-Banigo, Deputy Governor of Rivers State made this commitment during the presentation of the Rivers State sustainability and resource mobilization strategy on December 3, 2015.

The strategy was developed with support from SIDHAS, by a multi-sectoral state HIV/AIDS response team comprising the Chief Medical Director of the Hospital Management Board (HMB), Permanent Secretaries of Primary Health Care Management Board (PHCMB), State Ministry of Health (SMOH) and other line ministries. Participating in the meeting were the SIDHAS project advisory committee with representation from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), National AIDS & STI Control Program (NASCP), National Primary Health care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism (GFCCM), National Tuberculosis & Leprosy Control program (NTBLCP) and SIDHAS senior management.

Speaking at the meeting on behalf of the FMOH was NASCP coordinator Dr. Mrs. Evelyn Ngige, who implored the state to increase funding of HIV/AIDS activities, facilitate the provision of integrated services, and support laboratory upgrades for optimal functionality. On behalf of SIDHAS, Dr. Kwasi Torpey, Deputy Chief of Party, Technical, expressed the program's appreciation for the support received throughout the implementation period and requested additional

investments to sustain some of the services PEPFAR will no longer support beginning from 2016.

The state HIV/AIDS response team led by the Executive Director of the State Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS presented the strategy to the deputy governor and acknowledged the considerable investments made by FHI 360 under the USAID-funded Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) and SIDHAS projects since 2008, while emphasizing the need for sustained funding by all stakeholders.

In her response, Dr. Mrs. Harry-Banigo emphasized the government's commitment to ensure that the sustainability roadmap is funded and implemented seamlessly to enhance the provision of HIV/AIDS services in the state. The state government will also expand access to antiretroviral therapy services for the benefit of persons living with HIV in five additional local government areas. Rivers State will also ensure that registration fees for women seeking antenatal care are totally removed, a major stride in increasing access to prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) services in the state.

Also committing to the implementation of the sustainability roadmap and resource mobilization strategy were the private sector, represented by Shell Petroleum Development Company, Association of General Private Medical Practitioners in Nigeria, and Association for Reproductive and Family Health. Others were Health Finance and Governance project, Pathfinder International, Achieving Health Nigeria Initiative, Society for Family Health and Health Service Delivery Foundation.

