

**PRESENTATION OF FINAL REPORT OF THE NIGERIA AIDS
INDICATOR AND IMPACT SURVEY (NAIIS)**

**DR. OSAGIE EHANIRE
HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH**

STATEMENT

Protocols

I welcome you to the Federal Ministry of Health, to formally receive the much-awaited final report of the Nigeria AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS) on behalf of the Government of Nigeria.

2. The Nigeria AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS) marked for Nigeria a turning point in her HIV/AIDS response strategy, but also a global landmark in the history of AIDS response, as the largest such survey ever performed. We are, understandably, proud of it, not only in terms of the large number of households reached, but in its geographic scope which included all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. This survey, for the first time, gave us the most reliable estimate we could have, of the national HIV prevalence and incidence.

3. I wish, at this point, to express appreciation to the United States Government for the significant financial contribution that enabled NAIS implementation and also to acknowledge the additional funding provided by the Global Fund. I also appreciate the technical assistance we received from UN agencies, especially UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF, as well as other stakeholders and partners. We thank the University of Maryland, for their role as the Technical Support Organisation for the survey; the Director-General of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), for his role in leading the University of Maryland team at the time of survey implementation, and finally all those who brought their experience to bear in support of the project.

4. With the survey, we have evidence to help us map out the road to end the HIV epidemic in Nigeria, rather than previous operations by estimates and guesswork. We can already see incremental benefits from application of the new knowledge, as compared to previous effort, and the progress made in anti-retroviral therapy coverage of people living with HIV, along with viral suppression levels. I note the diverse pictures of the epidemic across various states of Nigeria and more importantly, the information we have gained from NAIS, with

respect to areas where critical investment and program effort is required, in order to meet our targets.

5. This final report is an important reference document to inform our policies, programmes, and funding priorities.

6. We are committed to working with our partners to achieve epidemic control, by strengthening the evidence base for decision making as an important component of the next phase of work. Building capacity in human resources and infrastructure for better monitoring and tracking, will be key. We have laid a foundation through the National Data Repository, to improvise routine HIV surveillance. We shall, in addition, continue to conduct Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance Surveys (IBBS) for key populations, to ensure that no one left behind. I am pleased to note that the fourth round of this survey is now in process.

6. I shall end by acknowledging changing needs of HIV response in Nigeria, especially the competing priorities occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mobilising additional domestic and international resources will be critical for sustaining the gains we have made.

7. Again, I thank donors and partners for their contributions and solicit your continued support.

Thank you.