

SECRET

JUNE 2018

NCH/61/005A

MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON THE NIGERIA HIV/AIDS INDICATOR AND IMPACT SURVEY (NAIS)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform and solicit the support of Council for the successful conduct of the Nigeria HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIS).

INTRODUCTION

HIV was first found in Nigeria in 1985 and reported at the International AIDS Conference in Paris the following year. However, it was in 1991 that the results from the first antenatal sero-prevalence sentinel survey among pregnant women (popularly called ANC Sentinel Survey) showed that the estimated prevalence of HIV was 5.8%. Over the years however, subsequent surveys showed the prevalence have reduced steadily to 3.0% in 2014. This progress is as a result of concerted efforts of the Government of Nigeria in collaboration with the United States (U.S.) President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), The Global Fund and other stakeholders.

Considering the importance of ensuring that the country is able to report on the 90-90-90 UNAIDS target for termination of transmission of HIV; and especially to account for the massive resources that has been expended to achieve this target, The Federal Government of Nigeria through the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Health and in collaboration with the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), PEPFAR, the Global Fund and other stakeholders have made a commitment to define the Nigerian HIV epidemic through the conduct of the Nigeria HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIS). An implementing Partner, University of Maryland, Baltimore(UMB) is the technical partner for the survey.

CONTENT

The NAIS will be conducted in the 36 States of Nigeria and the FCT. The goals of this survey are to determine the national and state level prevalence of HIV in Nigeria, the prevalence of Hepatitis B and C at the National level, to assess the coverage and impact of HIV intervention services, and to measure HIV-related risk behaviours using a nationally representative sample. It will also estimate HIV incidence, Viral Load Suppression among HIV-positive individuals, and pediatric HIV prevalence. Other HIV-related measures, such as CD4 T-cell count, prevalence of detectable ARVs Metabolite and HIV Drug Resistance will also be assessed to characterize the HIV epidemic in Nigeria and provide greater clarity on the impact of the national HIV program. In addition, the survey will collect information on uptake of and access to HIV-related services and will estimate the prevalence of selected behaviours typically associated with HIV acquisition and/or transmission, and on common HIV co-morbidities and other health conditions. Conducting such a survey requires collaboration and buy-in from all stakeholders especially the State governments through the leadership of the Ministries of Health and their equivalent

in the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA). As primary stakeholders in the successful conduct of the NAIS, State Ministries of Health and the FCT Health and Human Services Secretariat are expected to:

1. Participate actively in the implementation of the NAIS:
 - a) For the Honorable Commissioners, through the instrument of the NCH; and
 - b) For Permanent Secretary, Directors of Public Health, Director Planning, research and statistics, Director Laboratory services, SAPCs, Executive secretary/DGs SACAs, through the Stakeholders Committee;
2. Support community engagement and other survey communication initiatives that is currently being carried out in their areas of jurisdiction in order to sensitize the populace about the study and secure their buy-in;
3. Facilitate and support the use of laboratories in their states that has been selected for the survey following a capacity assessment that has been conducted in preparation for the survey;
4. Provide any other support to the team that will be assigned to conduct the survey in their states as may be necessary for successful implementation.

Below is a summary of some project milestones that has been achieved in different thematic areas in the implementation of NAIS:

A. Governance:

- The setting-up of Survey Steering Committee (SSC) and Survey Technical Committee by the Honourable Minister of Health to oversee the implementation of the Survey. The setting-up of State Survey Teams.
- The signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Government (FGN) and United States Government and University of Maryland Baltimore (the Implementing Partner for NAIS). The Hon Minister, DG NACA and US Ambassador signed the MoU.
- Receipt of all ethical approval from both the Nigeria Health research Ethics Committee and the CDC and UMB Institutional Review Boards.

B. Field Implementation

- Training of all field, laboratory and community mobilization staff have been concluded
 - Pilot testing has been concluded and all findings are currently being incorporated
1. The advocacy visits to the states to reached out to the following groups:
 - i. CAN, SASCP, NOA, CISHAN, NEPWHAN, SMoH, NURTW, NAPTIP, Chief Imams, Traditional council, State chapter of the Vigilante groups in Nigeria

C. Funding

This survey will be funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through US Center for Disease Control and the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

PRAYERS

Council is invited to note that:

- I. Despite progress made in reducing the prevalence of HIV in Nigeria, challenges remain in terms of low treatment coverage, and slow decline in new HIV infections;
- II. Nigeria has joined other nations to endorse the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets as a commitment towards ending HIV by 2020 guided by the National Strategic Frameworks 2017-2021;
- III. Nigeria will implement a Nigeria HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact (NAIS) as a tool to monitor progress towards the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets as well as to account for the massive resources that has been invested in the process; and
- IV. The roles of States and FCT in the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIS) as described above are very important and central to the successful implementation of the Survey.

Honourable Minister of Health

JUNE 2018