

Strengthening Integrated Delivery of HIV/AIDS Services (SIDHAS)

Streamlining Delivery of Multiple Commodities in Nigeria



Challenges to Sustainable Delivery

Many low- and middle-income countries have developed vertical, disease-specific supply chain systems that are often unprepared to effectively support end-to-end distribution of a wide variety of health commodities, such as that required for HIV/AIDS management. In Nigeria specifically, the systematic decentralization of health service delivery across the country's 36 states has further complicated this task, often resulting in wastage of resources and inequitable distribution of health commodities.

Expanding Technical Assistance

Given the need to integrate country-wide supply chains for HIV/AIDS products, Axios was awarded the USAID-funded Strengthening Integrated Delivery of HIV/AIDS Services (SIDHAS, 2011-2016) project to build local capacity for the sustainable delivery of high-quality and comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and support services in Nigeria. The program was an expansion of its predecessor, the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN, 2005-2011) through which Axios procured more than \$US 26.7 million in HIV/AIDS commodities and trained more than 500 facility personnel on ARV logistics.

Within the scope of SIDHAS, Axios worked to strengthen the medical commodities supply chain system to improve affordability and availability of

Antiretroviral Therapy (ARTs), Rapid Test Kits (RTKs), Opportunistic Infection (OIs) drugs, lab commodities and equipment and related health commodities to treatment centers across Nigeria.

Building Government Capacity

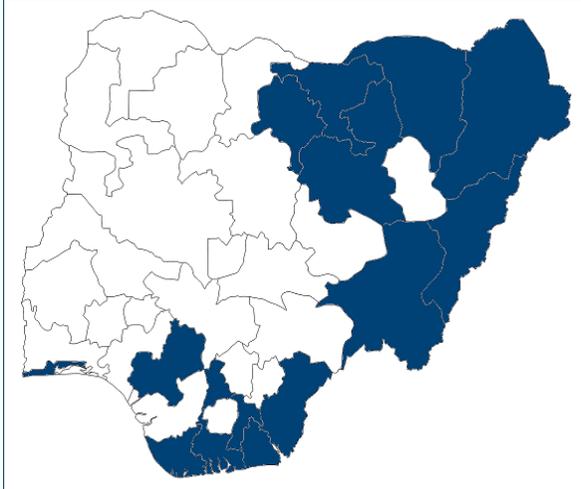
Axios worked closely with State Ministries of Health (SMOH) to streamline logistics systems and build procurement capacity. In addition to assisting with upgrading warehouses at health facilities and state Central Medical Stores (CMS) to promote integrated commodities management, a Networked Electronic Inventory Management System (NEIMS) that linked the state warehouses with the central Axios office in Abuja was also put into place to track commodity levels. Training was also provided to SMOH staff on stock monitoring, warehousing and inventory management.

At the federal level, Axios provided technical assistance to support the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) in procuring HIV/AIDS commodities by improving national quantification, forecasting and procurement processes and utilizing mechanisms such as contract-splitting to encourage competition.

Making Inroads

As a result of Axios' efforts, 25 health facilities and 10 CMS have been upgraded and now serve as functional model warehouses with the capacity to store and provide commodities to all healthcare facilities in each state. To date, inventory accuracy has increased to 98% and stock-outs have fallen from 15% to 5%. In addition, application of NEIMS data at the zonal, state and health facility levels has improved product utilization and reduced product waste, loss and expirations.

Since the program's inception in 2011, 100,000 patients were placed on ARV treatment and 300,000 received access to HIV/AIDS healthcare services. The program has reached over 600 health facilities in 15 states – including hard-to-reach areas in northern Nigeria and the Niger Delta.



(Above) Map of Nigeria with states where Axios works through SIDHAS highlighted: Bauchi, Taraba, Adamawa, Yobe, Borno, Kano, Jigawa, Lagos, Edo, Cross Rivers, Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Rivers, Abia, and Anambra.

Looking Forward

In order to promote sustainability through government ownership, Axios facilitated the formation of state-led Logistics Technical Working Groups (TWGs) chaired by Commissioners of Health or their representatives and comprised of representatives from several government bodies, including the SMOH, State Hospitals Management Board, State Action Committees on AIDS, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA).

The TWGs are responsible for coordinating and managing all state-level supply chain activities. The establishment of TWG certifies that Nigeria's state governments are equipped to continue operating Nigeria's integrated HIV/AIDS supply chains after the program concludes in 2016.