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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Government Hands Over Four Renovated Warehouses to the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Today, U.S. Consul General Jeffrey Hawkins and Mission Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Michael Harvey handed over four newly renovated warehouses to the Federal Ministry of Health. Mr. Hawkins presented the renovated warehouses to the Federal Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary Ambassador Bala S. Sani in a ceremony held at the Federal Medical Stores (FMS) complex, Oshodi, Lagos.

The renovation has doubled the storage capacity of the warehouses and will make it easier for the Ministry to buy, store, track and distribute medications to health care centers across Nigeria.

The newly renovated warehouses are also expected to minimize fraud and reduce cost and time for transporting life-saving medications and equipment to all parts of Nigeria, in addition to ensuring access to safe and effective medications for all Nigerians.

The renovation was a partnership effort by the U.S. Government, through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Ecobank Nigeria PLC.

The U.S. Government provided over \$1 million for the renovation as part of efforts to improve health care in Nigeria, through the provision of quality medication and medical equipment. Other partners contributed about \$500,000 to the renovation project.

"The U.S. Government, in partnership with the Global Fund, has plans to co-fund another large-scale project to construct state-of-the-art, pharmaceutical-grade warehouses here and in Abuja using an innovative technology called a "Warehouse-in-a-Box." These new facilities will provide enough storage space to house over 100 percent of Nigeria's annual need for a wide variety of public health sector medications," Mr. Hawkins remarked.

For more information, please contact:

Ibrahim Dan Halilu at idan-halilu@usaid.gov; cell: 0803-408-1198
Josephine Kamara at jkamara@usaid.gov; cell: 0803-408-1055

