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HIV/AIDS Battle Gets Boost as United States Agency for International Development Launches Strengthening Integrated Delivery of HIV/AIDS Services Project

On Tuesday, May 8, 2012, United States Agency for International Development launched the Strengthening Integrated Delivery of HIV/AIDS Services project in Abuja. The event was presided over by United States Ambassador Terence P. McCulley, while the Federal Minister of Health, Professor Onyebuchi Chukwu was represented by the Director Public Health Dr. Kabir Mansur.



Photo caption: Ambassador Terence P McCulley (second left), Director Public Health Dr, Kabir Mansur, Prof Idoko of NACA, and USAID Country Director Dana Mansuri, pose in front of new SIDHAS banner. Embassy photo by Idika Onyukwu.

Funded by USAID, the activity reduces the HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis burden through the provision of strengthened and integrated high quality, comprehensive services that are

sustainable in the long-term. The project is implemented in all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory with an estimated budget of \$224,000,000 over five years.

This project is building on the achievements of predecessor Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) project to increase access and coverage of high-quality, comprehensive HIV/AIDS treatment and improve efficiencies in service delivery. Between 2004 and 2010, the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria project provided training for health workers, refurbished facilities, and improved laboratory and pharmacy services, supply chain management, and data collection and reporting. HIV testing and counseling services were increased while referral systems were improved. HIV services were integrated into Tuberculosis and Reproductive Health treatments nationwide. By 2011, USAID provided assistance to over 160,000 HIV positive persons in 124 sites.

The Strengthening Integrated Delivery of HIV/AIDS Services project also creates improved quality and integration of HIV/AIDS services, and upgrades the capacity of Nigerian institutions to provide these services. Over the five year period (2011 – 2015), the project will assist the Government of Nigeria to reach the following key beneficiaries:

- 252,000 men, women and children to receive antiretroviral therapy;
- 1.7 million pregnant women to receive counseling and testing for the prevention of mother to child transmission of the HIV virus
- 41,220 pregnant women will complete antiretroviral treatment.

Also, products and information highlighting achievements of the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria project were disseminated during the launch.

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