



IHVN NEWS

A NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE INSTITUTE OF HUMAN VIROLOGY, NIGERIA



Mothers Happy about HIV-Free Babies, PMTCT Services

by Blessing Ukpabi

One of the services that the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) provides is the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services, this involves the provision of HIV diagnosis, care and treatment for mothers and babies, and results in HIV-free babies.

IHVN provides PMTCT services in 368 health facilities within FCT, Rivers, Nasarawa, and Kastina states.

From 2004 to June 2023, IHVN has provided HIV counseling and testing to 5.5 million pregnant women and PMTCT services to more than 126,000 women who tested HIV positive.

Blessing, a petty trader, is one of the women who have received PMTCT services in Rivers State University Teaching Hospital in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. She recalls that when she discovered her HIV status in 2013, one of her greatest fears was that she would not be able to get married or give birth to HIV-free children.

"I thought that being HIV positive was a death sentence but the doctor who counseled me assured me that I could live long, get married, and have my own children. He gave me medications and guided me on how to take them," she said.

It was a dream come true for Blessing when she got married in 2019 and got pregnant afterward.

"At the antenatal clinic, the healthcare workers welcomed me like every other person. I was not stigmatized. I was impressed and happy. When I was in labour, they gave me VIP treatment, I delivered safely," she said.

Blessing and her baby were given medications and supported by a peer mentor who assisted her with hospital processes during pregnancy, delivery, and after delivery. Her baby was tested at six



Blessing and her baby being attended to by a mentor mother during her visit to the Rivers University Teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

weeks and 18 months.

"I was happy when the test showed that my baby is HIV negative," Blessing said. She has also received PMTCT services for her two-month old whom she is currently breastfeeding.

"My advice to others is not to be scared about HIV. You are not alone, don't die like a chicken. Since I started taking HIV medications in 2013, I rarely fall sick. I am strong and healthy. You can eat well and live your normal life even when taking medications. You can even live to see your great-grandchildren," she said.

Another mother with HIV-free children is Bomi A., who was thrilled after an Early Infant Diagnosis test at six weeks and a rapid test at 18 months showed that her babies are HIV-free.

"My first child is four years old, and my second is two years old. For the first child, I was worried when I came to the hospital. I asked the doctor if everything would go well, and he assured me that it was well. For the second one, I was not worried.

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Mothers Happy about HIV-Free Babies, PMTCT Services



Blessing and Bomi interact with visiting US Consul General, Mr. Will Stevens and the Rivers State Hon. Commissioner for Health, Dr. Adaye Oreh, during a visit to the Rivers State University Teaching hospital

Antenatal services are given free by the Rivers State government. I did not pay for the PMTCT services in the hospital either."

"My mentor mother often calls me to ask how I'm feeling and if I am facing any challenges. She also updates me with relevant information. When I come to the clinic, she checks to see that I'm alright," she said.

Bomi added that during her facility visits, she interacts with other women living with HIV and is encouraged by their resilience.

"I'm excited to tell others to try their best to

take their medications as prescribed," Bomi said.

IHVN Rivers State ASPIRE Project Manager, Dr. Stanley Idakwo, noted that between April 2019 to September 2023, IHVN supported the testing of 7,122 antenatal clients and placed 69 newly identified HIV pregnant women on anti-retroviral treatment at Rivers State University Teaching Hospital (RSUTH). "More than 500 babies have been delivered HIV-free from HIV-positive mothers who have benefitted from PMTCT services. RSUTH is one of the largest facilities providing PMTCT services in Rivers state, hence its reach cut across communities all over the state," he said.

IHVN Program Manager Prevention Care and Treatment, Dr. Victoria Igbinomwanhia, said that IHVN provides PMTCT services in both health facilities and in the community to improve access to the services.

"We are collaborating with Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and faith-based homes to offer PMTCT services. We provide them with HIV test kits; we have trained the TBAs to conduct HIV testing, and to refer those who are identified positive to designated supported facilities to commence ART. We have hub and spoke models where TBAs are mapped to supported health facilities. If clients are tested in the community, we find out whether they prefer to access PMTCT in the community or facility," she said.

VERDI Project Establishes Community Advisory Board

by Ayomide Balogun

To engender community participation in the VERDI Consortium MPox Research Project, the International Research Centre of Excellence (IRCE) at the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) has established a Community Advisory Board with members from community-based organizations in, Lagos, Rivers, Bayelsa states and the Federal Capital Territory.

The Principal Investigator of the VERDI Consortium MPox Project, Prof. Nadia A. Sam-Agudu said that the advisory board will guide community involvement, and project implementation in the community in line with the project objectives. The project objectives include contributing Nigerian data to a global pediatric MPox registry, conducting qualitative studies on MPox in the Nigerian context, and developing research tools and a master protocol for an observational study of MPox among pregnant women in Nigeria.

The Community Advisory Board Chair, Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje said that the board will bring value to the study. Dr. Adirieje, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of Afrihealth Optonet Association, said that the board is looking forward to generating sufficient evidence to guide interventions to end Mpox in the country.

"Each member of the board have worked in the communities that they represent for more than 20 years," he said.

The European Union-funded VERDI Consortium comprises nearly 30 teams of researchers from 16 countries in Europe, Africa, North America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. This study seeks to preempt future infectious disease outbreaks by consolidating pandemic preparedness measures.

From the Chief Executive Officer

The joy of giving birth to a HIV-free baby is one that every pregnant woman living with HIV can experience. IHVN supports the provision of free prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services in more than 360 health facilities in four states. We share in this joy and have adopted innovative approaches such as the Mothers Love Party to identify women of childbearing age in the community who may need PMTCT services and link them up for appropriate care and treatment in the facility.

This edition features reports on this as

well as the new Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 award to address HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria from 2024 to 2026. IHVN is serving as a Principal Recipient and has commenced implementation in collaboration with the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Program (NTBLCP) and other partners.



Yours truly,
Dr. Patrick Dakum
Chief Executive Officer,
Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria

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IHVN, AFM, FCT Fire Service Collaborate on Fire Safety

by Tong'ret Lot

The Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) has collaborated with Africa Fire Mission (AFM) and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Fire Service to train fire-fighters from Baze University, National Judicial Institute (NJI), Nile University and National Open University Nigeria (NOUN) on fire safety.

More than 25 Safety and Security Officers representing the organizations participated in the four-day training on "Advancing Firefighting Operations, Tactics, and Leadership" held in the IHVN Campus in Abuja.

IHVN Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director, Dr. Charles Olalekan Mensah who welcomed participants to the training said that partnership with the Fire Service and organizations located in the IHVN Campus environs is important to forestall fire incidences in the vicinity.

AFM facilitated the training and conducted a needs assessment to identify tools and equipment needed to further develop FCT Fire Service. AFM also donated firefighting equipment like fire-fighting coats, boots, gloves, suspenders, and helmets to them for enhanced effectiveness in responding to fire incidents, saving lives, property, and critical infrastructure.

AFM Co-Founder and Executive Director, Nancy Moore, said that "the hands-on training was focused on preparedness for

IHVN's partners in the Committee of Stakeholders on general safety and security of Cadastral Zone C00 Abuja FCT."

Head of Operations, FCT Fire Service, Engr. Adesina Abioye, stated that the training has updated Fire Service Staff with modern professional ways of rescue and firefighting, and has served as a refresher course on fire prevention and administration for the Senior Staff who participated.

"The importance of the partnership cannot be overemphasized; it has brought tremendous benefits to the partners and the stakeholders community. What would have cost the FCT administration a huge sum of money was made available at no cost due to partnership," he said.



IHVN CEO Dr. Patrick Dakum welcomes Africa Fire Mission team to the IHVN campus while the IHVN Chief Operating Officer/Managing Director, Dr. Charles Olalekan Mensah looks on.



Firefighters participate in a group exercise on donning firefighting equipment.

IHVN Calls for Partnership for Integrated HIV/TB Services

by Anna Angbazo



The Acting Director of the FCT Hospital Management Board, Dr. Olugbenga Bello interacting with the IHVN FCT Regional Manager, Dr. Tangkat Hosle, and staff from the IHVN.

The Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) has paid a courtesy visit to the FCT Hospital Management Board and the FCT Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Program to seek strengthened collaboration for the implementation of The ACTION to Sustain Precision and Integrated HIV Response towards Epidemic Control (ASPIRE) project and the GF Nigeria TB-HIV Reach, Integration and Impact Project (N-THRIP) programs in the FCT.

IHVN FCT Regional Manager, Dr. Tangkat Hosle led the visits and emphasized the importance of integrating tuberculosis services with HIV treatment in all facilities, implementing a patient biometric system,

and ensuring sustainability strategies.

In response to the call for increased partnership, the Acting Director of the FCT Hospital Management Board, Dr. Olugbenga Bello appreciated IHVN for its commitment to reducing HIV infections in Nigeria and pledged the Board's support to the new leadership of IHVN FCT Region.

The Program Manager of the FCT Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Program, Dr. Ngozi Ebisike called for continuous support for TB program implementation among stakeholders.

ANRiN Project Provides Nutrition Services to 202,500 Children in Kano

by Ritnen Gomwalk

More than 209,000 women and 202,000 children under five years have received nutrition services from the Accelerating Nutrition in Nigeria (ANRiN) project being implemented by the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) in nine Local Government Areas in Kano State.



Beneficiaries of ANRiN project in Bunkure LGA, Kano



IHVN staff enlightening men on the benefits of the nutritional services provided by the ANRiN project at Kano Municipal LGA.

ANRiN Project Director, Dr. Ishaya Madaki, who stated this, said that the project is

improving the nutritional status of pregnant women through provision of iron, folic acid tablets and intermittent malaria prophylaxis.

“IHVN is also providing zinc-fortified Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) for the management of diarrhea in children 6-59 months of age. Our work is also aimed at improving vitamin A supplementation and routine deworming of children under five years. We adopted approaches such as bi-monthly communication outreaches, town hall meetings, radio jingles, and a men's forum to sensitize men about actively supporting their wives to access and utilize the basic nutrition services,” he said.

The Project Director added that “in some communities, there are women who want to access care, but their husbands tend to stop them because they do not know about the services that we offer. We have decided to sensitize them and are sure that with this, more women and children will benefit.” He added that the project has more than 220 community volunteers combing Bunkure, Dala, Fagge, Gwale, Kano Municipal, Kumbotso, Nasarawa Tarauni and Wudil Local Government Areas in Kano State to provide nutrition services.

Project beneficiaries have said that the ANRiN project has improved the health of their families. 38-year-old Hajara Ahmed from Bunkure LGA said that she has seen many positive changes in her children. An ANRiN community volunteer visited their home to educate them about hygiene and

good nutrition. “The community volunteer gave us Zinc ORS, micronutrients, vitamin A, and albendazole tablets. My daughter who was ill with diarrhea, is now healthy,” she said.

Another beneficiary, Sadiya Abubakar said, “My husband is hardly around because his job requires him to always be on the

road – he is a driver. We do not have a pharmacy in this community, that is why I could not take my children for treatment.”

She was relieved when a community volunteer educated her and administered medications to her ten-month and two-year-old children respectively.

USAID TB-LON3 Project Targeted Outreaches Yields Results

by Joy Onuoha

To reach more men with tuberculosis screening services, the USAID TB-LON 3 project implemented by the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) has targeted male-dominated populations in Amuwo Odofin and Etiosa Local Government Areas in Lagos State with outreach campaigns and tuberculosis screening services.



Participant turn out to get screened and tested for tuberculosis in Lagos State, Nigeria.

During the outreach in January 2024, 525 people were screened, 62 presumptive tuberculosis cases were identified, and 23 individuals were diagnosed with TB and linked to treatment and care services. The outreaches held at Ghana Park Mile 2, a motor park/garage in Amuwo Odofin LGA, Kirikiri Maximum Correctional Center Amuwo Odofin, and Ikoyi Correctional

Center, Etiosa LGA in Lagos state.

According to USAID TB-LON 3 Community Mobilization Advisor, Dr Abiola Alege, “It is very pertinent to reach the male populations as studies have

shown that they tend to have poorer health seeking behaviors while being most at risk for TB. In our bid to reach them, we have targeted areas that men congregate and work, thus bringing the services closer to those who would have hitherto been missed.”

Participants at the outreach also received blood pressure and blood sugar checks, deworming, free HIV testing services, and free condoms.

Mothers Love Party Initiative Tests Over 600 Women for HIV

by Luret Dakum

The Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) has tested more than 600 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers across area councils in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Mothers Love Party is an initiative by the Institute to prevent the transmission of HIV from mother to child by providing HIV sensitization and testing services in the community.

During mother's love parties, pregnant and breastfeeding women are also sensitized on care for their babies and given delivery packs (mama kits).

From February 2023 to February 2024, 624 women have participated in love parties in communities such as Daki Biyu, Chibiri, Gaube, Sheda, Nyanya, Gwagwa Tasha, Jikwoyi in the FCT.

IHVN Senior Program Officer, Mrs. Helen Mutong, said "It is all about prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT). We collaborate with stakeholders and conduct advocacy visits to the community leaders for the activity. We have discovered that many pregnant women in the community are not registered in any facility for antenatal. Some want to wait till it is close to delivery before going to the health facility to reduce costs, some of them cannot afford antenatal care, she observed.



Mrs. Mutong added that IHVN works with the traditional birth attendants in those communities.

"Some pregnant women trust traditional birth attendants. Whenever we go to a community, we ask the Chief about the residence of traditional birth attendants, assess their services, and support them with some commodities.

Some of them use nylon for deliveries so we provide them with gloves and other items. We build their capacity to protect themselves from getting infected with the virus.

The training is practical, we assure them that we are there to support them for an HIV-free society. We counsel the women who test HIV positive and link them up with the nearest health facility. IHVN partners with the



government to implement this initiative and they have been supportive," she said.

PMTCT Focal Person at the FCT AIDS STI Control Programme (FASCP), Adamu Murjanatu said, "We always work with IHVN to map and identify the communities that needs this intervention." Happiness Elias, a pregnant woman and beneficiary of the Mother's Love Party in Jikwoyi expressed her gratitude for the initiative.

"The economy is not smiling on us, and I am very happy that you (IHVN) have given us all these things free of charge and also done all the tests we need without collecting money. I have now understood the importance of keeping my environment safe and also taking care of myself when I am pregnant and when I am breastfeeding," Happiness said.

Photo Gallery



1 Executive Director International Research Center of Excellence (IRCE), Prof. Alash'le Abimiku interacts with visiting President of ChemBio Diagnostic Systems USA, Mr. Javan Esfandiari, and President of BioSynex Group, France, Dr. Thomas Lamy during their visit to the IHVN campus to discuss collaboration in manufacturing diagnostic kits for infectious disease detection.

2 IHVN Deputy Director Laboratory Services, Mrs. Petronilla Ozumba and IHVN Senior Technical Adviser Laboratory Services, Dr. Sam Peters receive a donation of 1 unit of HumaLoop T and 1 unit of HumaxITA, TB Lamp equipment from Chief Executive Officer of Mcpage Ltd, Mr. Chinedu Maduka

3-4 Healthcare workers participate in a practical session at a Tuberculosis Clinical Laboratory Interface for Continuous Quality Improvement (TB CLICQI) training for health workers in Katsina and Rivers State. The training equipped participants to improve clinical and laboratory interphase for persons with presumptive tuberculosis.

EQUAL Research Reveals Factors Impacting Maternal Health in Yobe State

by Blessing Ukpabi and Ritnen Gomwalk

Findings from the Ensuring Quality Access and Learning for Mothers and Newborns in Conflict-Affected Contexts (EQUAL) project being implemented by the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) have shown that gender, cultural, and religious beliefs affect care seeking for mothers and their babies.

EQUAL Principal Investigator in Nigeria, Dr. Emilia Iwu stated this at an event in Abuja organized by the project to disseminate research findings from key informant interviews and literature reviews.

“EQUAL project is funded by the UK International Development from the UK Government. The research is working to generate evidence on effective approaches for delivering life-saving maternal and newborn health (MNH) in countries affected by conflict. The duration of the project being conducted in Yobe State is from July 2021 to April 2026,” she said.

She added that findings have revealed that women encounter violence, sexual abuse, and limited healthcare access resulting in preventable maternal deaths, and psychological stress.

“While MNH services are generally accepted, cultural norms such as women requiring spousal permission to access medical care and the religious beliefs that home births are divinely sanctioned hinder the timely seeking of maternal and newborn health services,” Dr. Iwu said.

She noted that despite existing maternal newborn health policies and initiatives in



EQUAL Nigeria Principal Investigator, Dr. Emilia Iwu addressing partners at the dissemination meeting.



A cross-section of stakeholders discussing study findings at the meeting held at the IHVN campus.

Yobe State, persistent challenges such as inadequate funding, equipment and health workers hinder effective implementation of the policies.

Dr. Iwu urged the government and partners to increase funding dedicated to free medical care to address inadequate financing and capped number of beneficiaries.

“Boko Haram insurgency in Yobe State has

disrupted MNH services. There has been destruction of health care facilities, theft of medical equipment, displacement of staff, heightened risks of abduction and murder of health care workers.”

The Principal Investigator said that addressing determinants of care seeking through investments in the health system, creation of awareness, social behavior changes and improved quality and coverage of care will improve access to health services by women and children.

Assistant Director of Education at the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN), Mr. Tinbuak Yanai, who was also at the dissemination event, said that “Proper training and scaling up of training of health care workers will improve the health of mothers and newborn babies in Yobe state.”

Stakeholders from the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN), USAID, Integrated Health Program (IHP) and others participated in the dissemination event.

The EQUAL consortium consists of partners such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN), the John Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health, the Somali Research and Development Institute (SORDI), and the Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB).

Spotlight on the IHVN Supported PCR laboratory in Rivers State University Teaching Hospital (RSUTH)

The PCR laboratory at Rivers State University Teaching Hospital serves an average of 187 health facilities in Rivers, Bayelsa and Abia States. It provides HIV and viral load services - giving 3,200 results per day. Through the services carried out in the laboratory, there has been a reduction of the turnaround time from a month to about a week for viral load and an average turnaround time of two days for EID samples. The laboratory also conducts integrated testing through the use of the Gene Xpert machine for EID.



Laboratory Scientists at work in the IHVN-supported PCR laboratory at Rivers State University Teaching Hospital.

Healthcare Providers Receive Training on Quality Gender-Based Violence Services

by Luret Dakum

The Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) has conducted a training on quality assurance in the provision of gender-based violence services to protect survivors and provide excellent client-centered care.

The training of trainer's activity had IHVN GBV Focal Persons, Continuous Quality Improvement staff from FCT, Nasarawa, Rivers, and Katsina states as well as Clinical Mentors and representatives from the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs in attendance at the IHVN Campus in Abuja.

IHVN Senior Program Officer, Prevention, Care and Treatment, Mrs. Derby Collins Kalu said that the training is equipping health facilities with the appropriate skills and the right infrastructure to provide violence care, and look at system-strengthening activities in the GBV program.

"Participants are to train others in the health facilities in their respective states. With the knowledge that they have gained, staff of health facilities can work together to



Participants at the Gender-based violence training discuss during a group activity at the training.

identify program gaps and address them. We look forward to having quality post-violence care for our survivors and making sure that service providers are equipped with adequate knowledge and skills to provide those services to survivors," she said.

IHVN Program Assistant Orphans and

Vulnerable Children (OVC), Retna Dashan, said that the training has given her a better understanding of quality assurance. "One of our key goals is to ensure children's safety. The training has given me a better understanding of how to prevent, identify, and respond to GBV especially relating to children, she stated."

IHVN, Stakeholders Discuss Stillbirth Challenges in Nigeria

by Luret Dakum



Participants engage in discussions on stillbirth in Nigeria

The Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria (IHVN) has held a two-day meeting with stakeholders and policymakers to foster a synergistic approach to addressing stillbirth challenges in Nigeria. The meeting was organized by SPEED Project. SPEED Project means, Improving Nigeria's Capacity to Use Data on Registered Stillbirths for Decision-making & Planning (SPEED Project),



Participant from the Family Health department of the Federal Ministry of Health, Dr. Alexander Bitrus, speaking at the meeting, while the SPEED Project Study Coordinator, Margaret Kojusola, looks on

and it is implemented by the International Research Center of Excellence (IRCE). The meeting held at the IHVN campus in Abuja.

SPEED Project Coordinator, Margaret Kojusola said that the meeting's aim is to facilitate discussions and agreements on the data elements useful for publishing a stillbirth Data Analytics and Visualization Tool (DAVT) on the Federal Ministry of

Health (FMOH) website.

"The project is conducting a comprehensive review and designing an analysis plan for national stillbirth data, utilizing predefined indicators. This is to guide best practices and policies aimed at reducing stillbirth rates in Nigeria," she said.

Stakeholders from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), and the Senate Committee on Health brainstormed on addressing stillbirth challenges in the country at the meeting.

"The meeting serves as a crucial step towards improving the country's approach to addressing stillbirths and fostering positive public health outcomes," Ms Kojusola said.

Global Fund Awards Nigeria \$933 Million to Address HIV, TB, Malaria

by Blessing Ukpabi

The Honourable Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammed Ali Pate has launched the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 award of \$933,156,931 to Nigeria to address HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria from 2024-2026.

Prof. Pate, also the Chairman of the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), unveiled the award in Abuja. He stated that one of the expected results from the grant on HIV is that the country achieves the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goal of ensuring that 95% of the people who are living with HIV know their HIV status, placing 95% of the people who know that they are living with HIV on life-saving anti-retroviral treatment, and making sure that 95% of people who are on treatment are being virally suppressed by 2025.

"It is a tall order and we will be very diligent, and we hope there will be no fuzzy numbers. The mandate is also to scale up service among all the vulnerable populations and prevention of mother-to-child transmission services using the primary health care system as part of the sector-wide effort.

On tuberculosis, the goal is to increase the case notification rate for all forms of TB from where it is to sustain the current TB success rate beyond the initial target of 90% during this grant period; and to enroll 100% of drug-resistant TB patients on appropriate treatment by 2026. For malaria, the focus will be on improving access and utilization of vector control interventions and ensuring the provision of chemo prevention, diagnosis, and appropriate treatment for 80% of the target population," he said.

The Coordinating Minister called on Principal Recipients of the grant to use the resources judiciously to deliver services.

"This CCM is committing itself to monitor and to have a robust framework for tracking the resources of governmental and non-govern-

mental actors in a transparent manner. We will ensure it happens because we signed a contract stating we will do that. I want to assure the donors that we will use these resources judiciously.

The grant will be implemented by Principal Recipients, the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), the National AIDS and STDs Control Programme (NASCP), National Tuberculosis, Leprosy & Buruli Ulcer Control Programme (NTBLCP), Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN), National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and the Lagos State Ministry of Health.

Also at the event, Global Fund representative, Maria Kirova, congratulated the country for the successes recorded in addressing AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

"I'm pleased also to share with you the news that Nigeria has recorded one of the highest resource utilization rates of Global fund resources in the Grant Cycle 6 - more than 95%. That is a testament to your good work. We have no doubt that with all your leadership, mobilization, commitment, and expertise, the country will continue to drive a successful implementation path forward. I would like to reiterate the Global Fund's commitment to fully collaborate with the CCM-Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Health, the Principal Recipients, and other partners, under the leadership of the honorable Coordinating Minister to ensure a successful implementation of the Grant Cycle 7," she said.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN), Dr. Patrick Dakum assured the country and the international community of the commitment of the Principal Recipients to program efficiency and financial accountability.

"Our driving force is that at the end of the grant period, the country, the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), and the



IHVN Chief Executive Officer, Dr Patrick Dakum addressing stakeholders at the launch on behalf of the Principal Recipients.



The Honourable Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammed Ali Pate launches the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 award to Nigeria in Abuja.

Global Fund will be proud of our efforts. We will work assiduously to deliver the required services to Nigerians. As Principal Recipients, our role is to ensure that the sub-recipients deliver HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria services with accountability," he said.

Representatives from bilateral, and multilateral partners, the United Nations, the US Government, international non-governmental organizations, civil society, and the legislature participated in the launch of the Global Fund GC7 grant.

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