

AIDSFree Nigeria

Duration of Activity: October 2015–September 2018 **Life of Project Funding:** \$3.3 million

AIDSFree has operated two separate activities in Nigeria. The first was a **health care waste management** (HCWM) activity (October 2015–September 2016) that supported health facilities in select states to take appropriate precautions when handling health care waste and promoted injection safety.

The second activity supported sustainable **condom programming** using a total market approach (TMA) and worked to increase condom use among key populations (April 2017–September 2018).

Health Care Waste Management

Technical Approach & Key Activities

The HCWM activity evaluated the HCWM practices of 110 health facilities, created guidance documents, trained facilities on best practices and standard precautions, and advocated at the state government level for the creation of official policies on HCWM and infection prevention and control (IPC).

Health Care Waste Management Assessment

AIDSFree assessed 110 health facilities in three PEPFAR priority states (Akwa Ibom, Cross Rivers, and Rivers) to determine knowledge of, and adherence to, proper IPC and HCWM practices among workers, as well as availability of associated commodities, and facility-level protocols, job aids, operating procedures, and guidance. The assessment found significant shortcomings in HCWM. Providers and waste handlers had very limited training in and knowledge of HCWM best practices, and needle injuries were common. Facilities had insufficient supplies of waste management equipment, and most lacked guidance and job aids for HCWM. State-level policies on HCWM were absent.

AIDSFree Nigeria Health Care Waste Management Objectives

- Increase compliance with standard precautions among health workers in targeted health facilities
- Promote the institution of sustainable state-owned HCWM systems
- Strengthen the IPC and HCWM components of health workers' trainings

Improving Knowledge of Infection Prevention & Control and HCWM Practices

AIDSFree conducted cascade-style training in HCWM and IPC, and produced manuals, job aids, and supportive material for this training. AIDSFree also helped facility staff to develop HCWM plans, including benchmarks and timelines for providing a minimum HCWM package appropriate to each facility's level of service. The project also provided an initial supply of HCWM supplies, including bins and liners, protective equipment for waste handlers, and sharps safety boxes, to help facilities initiate



appropriate HCWM activities immediately. To help integrate HCWM within facility planning and budgeting, AIDSFree also developed a logistics training manual and supported training for logistics officers from three states.

Improving the Policy Environment

AIDSFree shared findings from the assessment with state officials, engaged them in discussions about HCWM, and conducted a learning tour to Lagos, where the functioning HCWM system serves as a national model.

Achievements

AIDSFree Nigeria's 18-month HCWM project built a strong foundation for progress in improving the quality of health care by addressing specific goals in HCWM and IPC. The project's HCWM assessment indicated significant weaknesses in HCWM and injection practices in all facilities surveys (including provider knowledge, commodities, and facility policies). AIDSFree responded by increasing providers' knowledge about HCWM and safe injection, using a cascade training strategy that not only improved knowledge of HCWM among over 13,000 providers and waste managers, but also left a strong cadre of trainers in place at the project's end. The project also provided seed stock of basic HCWM and IPC supplies, and provided training for 339 logistics officers. By the time of the closeout, more than half of participating facilities had developed plans for institutionalizing HCWM and IPC; and AIDSFree had distributed a wide range of educational materials, job aids, and guidance to facilities. As importantly, the project's outreach to stakeholders led to state-level development of HCWM and IPC plans—a fundamental condition for sustainably safe injection and waste management.

Challenges, Responses & Looking Forward

AIDSFree identified lack of knowledge as a key barrier to appropriate IPC and HCWM. Facility staff were insufficiently informed about the proper procedures for IPC and waste management, as evidenced by the high incidence of needlestick injuries. To keep systems for HCWM and IPC growing, AIDSFree recommended specific actions at both the state and facility level. State-level recommendations included:

Promulgate states policies:

- Finalize state policies that were drafted with AIDSFree support and disseminate them as needed
- Cost and budget HCWM and IPC policies and integrate them into the state budget
- Establish a system for transporting health care waste, using a collaborative approach
- Strengthen collaboration between the public and private sectors
- Orient public and private facilities on HCWM and IPC policies



Recommendations for facilities included:

- Develop a plan of action for implementing HCWM and IPC policies
- Improve commodity procurement
- Integrate HCWM into facility budgets
- Scale up training on HCWM and IPC for all health workers and waste handlers

Condom Programming

Technical Approach & Key Activities

The subsequent AIDSFree activity on condom programming introduced a total market approach (TMA) to condom programming to increase the long term sustainability of condom supply as donor support is gradually withdrawn. This activity provided technical assistance (TA) to state and local government agencies and other condom-programming stakeholders and designed a demand creation campaign to increase use of condoms and lubricants among key populations (KPs).

AIDSFree Condom Programming Objectives

- Strengthen coordination among actors in the procurement, distribution, and demand creation for condoms via a TMA
- Increase informed demand for condom use
- Improve access, effectiveness, and reach of condoms through optimized distribution of free condoms

Partnership and Coordination

AIDSFree conducted training on SBCC (social and behavior change communication) and TMA for NACA (National Agency for the Control of AIDS) staff, and supported the agency to draft a memo recommending the adoption of TMA for condom and lubricant programming that was later accepted by Nigeria's Council on AIDS. AIDSFree also presented on TMA at a government-held meeting to prepare for the 2018-2019 National HIV Prevention Plan, and promoted the approach in meetings it held with other stakeholders in the Nigeria condom market.

Demand and Supply

The AIDSFree approach to demand creation for condoms and lubricants focused on a formative assessment of their use among key population in Nigeria, to inform the creation of the national condom and lubricant communication strategy. AIDSFree also led the development of this strategy through a week-long stakeholder workshop where the Nigerian government, USAID, and other donors, implementing partners, and civil society organizations worked on various sections of it that AIDSFree went on to compile into one document that formed the basis of the strategy. AIDSFree also developed a supply plan to manage the distribution of condom and lubricants and recommend the amounts that should be procured through the supply chain system.



Achievements

AIDSFree secured the engagement of the National AIDS Control Agency (NACA) to lead and coordinate TMA efforts for condom programming. A TMA subcommittee composed of condom programming stakeholders meets regularly to review the latest market intelligence and to validate social and behavior change communication (SBCC) materials developed by the project. The subcommittee identified TMA indicators that were incorporated into a TMA dashboard developed by AIDSFree to monitor evolving trends towards achieving a healthy market for condoms. Coordination in condom supply has been strengthened with aggregated reports produced by AIDSFree that provide visibility into procurement and distribution of free condoms.

Key Achievements:

- Market data collected under the project included data from the commercial sector for the first time.
- TMA adopted as one of Nigeria's priority prevention pillars for reducing HIV infection
- TMA dashboard produced
- NACA personnel trained in SBCC and TMA for condom programming.
- Formative research into condom and lubricant use behaviors among KPs conducted.
- Development of the National Condom and Lubricant Communication Strategy
- Demand creation materials for KPs designed for social media campaign
- Quantification and supply plan for free distribution of condoms produced

Challenges, Responses & Looking Forward

AIDSFree worked deliberately to involve the Government of Nigeria through its appropriate agencies, such as NACA, and the relevant departments and units of the FMOH (Health Promotion and Advocacy, Communications, and Social Mobilization), as well as the relevant KP networks and groups, in planning and implementing activities. NACA was involved in planning the condom communication strategy development workshop and took the lead during the development of the strategy.

The adoption of TMA as a national approach by the highest HIV and AIDS decision-making body further institutionalizes TMA for condom programming in Nigeria. Key players in the commercial and social marketing sectors showed greater interest in coming to the table to discuss the condom market. However, they remain worried about the volumes of free condoms within the market. For effective engagement of the commercial sector actors, there is a need to share existing market intelligence.

The use of social media to circulate messages to KP on correct and consistent condom and lubricant use shows promise for reaching these marginalized groups.



Data Snapshot

DATA SNAPSHOT: Nigeria Health Care Waste Management

TOTAL ACHIEVEMENT
(July 2015 – September 2016)



13,673

Health care workers /
waste handlers trained



42,000

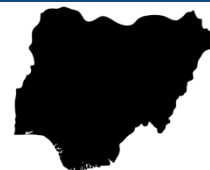
Posters on HCWM distributed



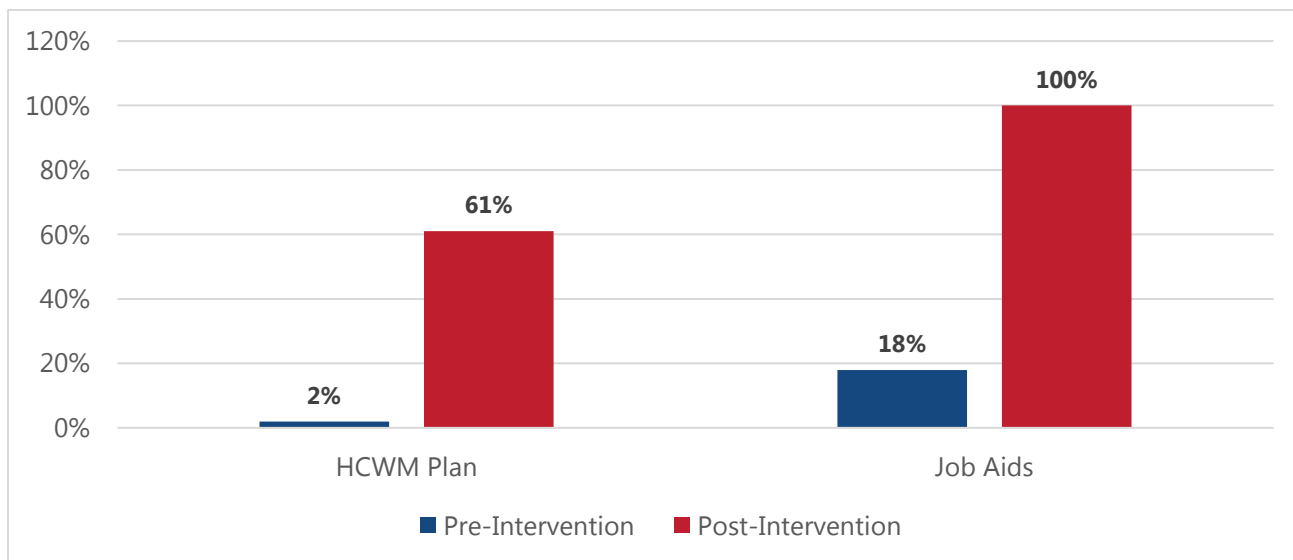
110

Health facilities assessed

50% increase in the essential
knowledge of the health care
workers and waste handlers
who attended AIDSFree's
HCWM training



Proportion of Facilities with Job Aids and HCWM Plan



Related Resources

Health Care Waste Management

[AIDSFree Nigeria Health Care Waste Management Final Report](#)

[Standard Operating Procedure Manual for Condoms and Lubricants Logistics Management in Nigeria](#)

Condom Programming

[Willingness to Pay for Condoms in Five Countries: Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe](#)

[Assessment of the Retail Environment of Male Condoms in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe](#)