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Special Report

U.S. Responds to COVID-19

As the global COVID-19 pandemic persists, USAID programs continue virtually as staff continue to work from home both in the United States and Nigeria.



COVID RESPONSE: 'Much of assistance provided to build the Nigerian structures, systems and practices turns out to be very directly transferable.' – Ambassador Leonard

As of July, the United States provided \$1.5 billion in COVID-related assistance from USAID and the State Department, including more than \$363 million in Africa alone.

In Nigeria, the United States has committed \$56.1 million in new funding since the global outbreak began.

This includes providing state-of-the-art ventilators, improving public health education, protecting healthcare workers, strengthening laboratory systems, supporting disease surveillance, and boosting rapid-response capacity in more than 120 countries around the world.

U.S. Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard noted much of assistance provided to build the Nigerian structures, systems and practices turns out to be very directly transferable during the COVID epidemic.” Some 61 U.S. embassy staff members, including ten from USAID, have put their technical expertise to work by providing support to the Presidential Task Force and Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) in all five pillars of the country’s response.

Risk Communications

Awareness Messages to a Million Nigerians Daily

USAID assisted the Nigerian government to develop critical messages on COVID-19



MILLION MESSAGES: USAID has teamed up with comms giant Airtel to deploy both IVR and SMS platforms to deliver key messages to contain the spread of COVID-19.

prevention to more than a million of its citizens a day. The nationwide awareness-raising campaign is part of a broader U.S. government support to bolster Nigeria’s efforts to prevent and respond to the

spread of the virus. USAID has teamed up with communications giant Airtel to deploy both Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and short message service (SMS) platforms to deliver key messages around social distancing, safe hygiene practices, and other preventive measures to contain the spread of the disease. The effort is part of a campaign launched by the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) that encourages social media users to play their part in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Office of Transition Initiatives

After Training, War Widows Produce 50,000 Facemasks



50,000 MASKS: *With support from USAID, 200 new seamstresses helped protect the public and boost the economy making facemasks.*

In conflict-ridden Borno State, USAID trained about 200 women, mostly widowed or otherwise made vulnerable by the Boko Haram insurgency, on sewing and tailoring skills to produce more than 50,000 facemasks to help protect the Northeast from the COVID-19 pandemic. Once trained, these women were able to produce about 60 masks a day fabricated from Ankara, a traditional cloth. The effort boosted local production and promoting

the use of the colorful wax-print masks in various layered designs to encourage adherence to COVID-19 regulations. Implemented with reprogrammed funds under the Nigeria Lake Chad Basin activity of USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), the training expanded activities from the original focus of producing Ankara shoes and bags.

Education

USAID Helps Provide Bauchi Students Lockdown Learning

To help keep students learning during the COVID-19-induced break from classes,



LOCKDOWN LEARNING: *Family members in Bauchi take in online learning under an agreement with state education officials and UNICEF supported by USAID.*

USAID has partnered with UNICEF and the Bauchi State Universal Basic Education Board, among other partners, to develop a multimedia e-learning program that will reach more than a million primary, secondary, and koranic school students in the state. Under an agreement with UNICEF, the Education Board, state radio and television, and local universities, USAID will support the state's initiative to ensure a continuum of teaching and learning while children remain at home. USAID's support includes dissemination of "Mu Karanta"

(Let's Read) materials developed by its Northern Education Initiative Plus activity through the radio broadcasts. USAID is also collaborating with state governments to leverage Nigeria's Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and World Bank-supported Basic Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA) resources by providing technical inputs as well as development of "Mu Karanta" materials in Igbo and Yoruba languages.

HIV-AIDS and Tuberculosis Control

USAID Upgrades and Equips COVID Operations Centers

In June and July, U.S. officials joined officials from nine Nigerian states to virtually



EOC UPGRADES: Scene from a virtual tour of the USAID-upgraded Emergency Operations Center in Cross River State on June 16, 2020.

commission Emergency Operations Centers (EOC), newly equipped with the support of the American people to track and control the spread of the deadly COVID-19. In line with priorities set by Nigeria's Center for Disease Control, USAID programmed \$1.1 million to upgrade and expand the capacity of the EOCs to strengthen response to outbreaks. The upgraded centers are now operational and include digital situation and communication rooms that coordinate the state COVID response and other disease

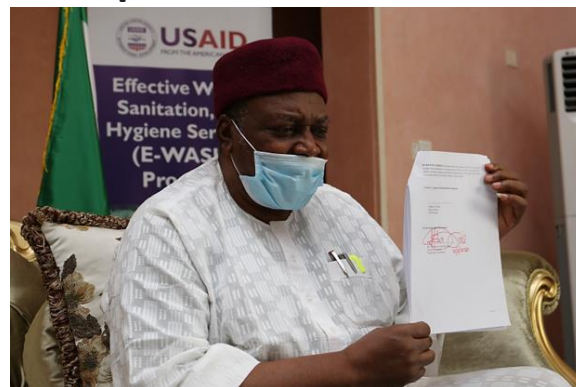
outbreaks, utilizing data integration, warehousing, and visualization to provide state officials transparent, real-time information on COVID-19.

These upgrades have helped seamlessly and creatively transform previous investments and experiences to support Nigeria's COVID response.

Complementary COVID investments include boosting lab capacity, establishing mega labs, procuring diagnostic machines, augmenting sample transport, enhancing contact tracing, risk management communications, and fine-tuning data analytics, outbreak management, and monitoring. Participating states include Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Cross River, Edo, Imo, Niger, and Oyo.

Water and Sanitation

USAID Partners with Taraba to Improve 'WASH' Services



CLEANER WATER: Taraba State Governor Darius Ishaku displays the MOU with USAID forging a partnership to improve performance of the state Water Board.

USAID and the Taraba State government formalized a partnership to improve the management and delivery of water and sanitation (WASH) services to help people live healthier lives through reliable access to

clean water. Under a new Memorandum of Understanding, USAID and Taraba agreed to jointly develop a professional, ‘corporatized’ and more accountable state Water Board. This will be accomplished by improving its financial viability, and strengthening policy, institutional, and regulatory frameworks for better WASH service delivery. Through the \$60.4 million ‘Effective Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Services’ (E-WASH) activity, USAID supports Taraba and five other states to strengthen their Water Boards’ capacity to make solid investment decisions, improve billing and collection systems, and ensure greater responsiveness to customer concerns. Other participating states include Abia, Delta, Imo, and Niger.

Health, Population, and Nutrition

Novel Activity Design for Improving Teen Health

USAID/Nigeria has designed new activity aimed at improving the health and well-being of poor, urban adolescents using a new, inclusive “co-creation” method to better understand the challenges young people face in leading healthy and productive lives. The result was a five-year, \$15 million award to DAI Global, which will lead a group of specialized local partners to establish and strengthen a network of “youth hubs” in the state capitals of Lagos and Kano. The hubs will provide two million adolescent girls and boys with safe spaces where they will acquire skills to lead healthier, more productive lives through counseling on reproductive health, practical

information for workforce development, and activities that encourage self-esteem and team building. By establishing and strengthening a series of interconnected “youth hubs” in the two megacities, the activity will empower 15-to 19-year-olds with health and life skills, reproductive health awareness, access to reproductive health, and improvement of gender equality. In the teen-friendly context of sports, arts, and other group-centered



YOUTH HUBS: A new USAID activity will establish and strengthen a network of ‘youth hubs’ in Nigeria’s two largest cities in support of two million adolescents.

activities, a cadre of youth coaches will deepen understanding of social issues, shift attitudes, and spur behavior change among the hub participants.

Engagement with parents, guardians and community leaders will help urban youth take control of their own health and futures through job training, apprenticeships, and placements.

In line with the Agency’s Positive Youth Development policy, USAID has given the Nigerian youth a voice into a project meant for them and responds to the demands of today’s young people that they must be involved in forging their own futures.

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