Promoting Health Care Waste Management in Nigeria

Duration of activity: 24 months (with possibility of extension)

Anticipated funding for first year: U.S. $2 million

Description: Because health care waste poses serious risks to public health and the environment, its management is critical. Limited funding, however, often compromises health care waste management (HCWM). Although health care waste should be separated from municipal waste, it tends to be collected and disposed with the rest of the waste stream. Most hazardous and toxic wastes are put into dump facilities, and few safeguards, if any, protect the environment, such as water sources, or people living nearby.

The U.S. Government is working with the Government of Nigeria (GON) to scale up treatment services in selected high HIV-prevalence states and local government areas in Nigeria and achieve the UNAIDS epidemic control target of 90-90-90 by 2020. Because additional activities will increase the quantity of medical waste generated, the development and implementation of a more coordinated and centralized HCWM system is imperative.

The goal of AIDSFree Nigeria is to institutionalize universal precautions in health facilities and promote sustainable HCWM systems in PEPFAR-supported sites in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, Lagos, Nasarrawa, Kaduna, and Rivers states, as well as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), to ensure that patients, health workers, communities, and the environment are protected. In addition, injection safety technical assistance will be provided to ensure that every injection is necessary and does put the patient, health care provider, or community at risk.

In conjunction with the U.S. Government team, PEPFAR implementing partners (IPs), and target state governments, this activity will—

- increase compliance with standard precautions among health care workers in targeted health facilities
- promote the institution of sustainable state-owned HCWM systems
- strengthen the infection prevention control (IPC) and HCWM component of the pre-service training curriculum for health care workers
- develop a curriculum for a HCWM certification short course and promote its incorporation at two training institutions (with implementation support with a designated USAID implementing partner)
- increase compliance with injection safety, including phlebotomy.

Planned AIDSFree Nigeria Key Activities

Health care waste management: AIDSFree Nigeria will promote adherence to the minimum package for HCWM at the facility level. AIDSFree Nigeria will work with U.S. Government implementing partners and state governments to identify and implement practical, affordable, and effective means of health care waste handling and final disposal in accordance with WHO standards.

Pre-service and continuing medical education: AIDSFree Nigeria will identify two health training institutions (such as nursing and health technology schools) in target states that do not include IPC issues in their curricula. A HCWM short course to prepare graduates for HCWM jobs in secondary and tertiary health facilities will be developed.

Standard universal precautions: AIDSFree Nigeria will facilitate the establishment of hospital IPC committees to institutionalize standard precautions. AIDSFree Nigeria will ensure that in supported facilities, approved standard procedures are available and a system to monitor compliance is in place. AIDSFree Nigeria will coordinate training activities for various health workers (including prescribers, providers, laboratory staff, and phlebotomists) on IPC best practices, following current WHO guidelines.

Logistics: AIDSFree Nigeria will build hospital and state capacity to quantify and forecast commodity needs for infection prevention equipment and supplies (e.g., safety boxes, re-use prevention syringes, phlebotomy equipment, waste bins, and bin liners) for preventive and curative services.

Policy: The project will help implementation states adapt the National HCWM Policy. This policy will form the basis for sustainable HCWM systems development in each state.

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