

ELEEN EKANEM CHINYERE M.B.CH.B, MPH

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery (M.B.CH.B)

Spring 2010

Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife Osun State

Master's in public health University of Abuja

Spring 2017

Professional Summary:

- Over 15 years leading national and sub-national public health programmes across Nigeria.
- Directed implementation of a US\$700,000 Gates Foundation-funded health systems strengthening programme.
- Positioned strategic technical assistance to Federal and State Governments on integrated HIV, MNCH, RMNCAEH and Primary Health Care.
- Catalysed multidisciplinary technical teams and multi-partner collaborations across government and development partners.
- Influenced implementation of the 2024 National HIV Treatment Guidelines, National Antenatal Care Guidelines, Differentiated Service Delivery Operational Manual and other national technical guidance.
- Supported institutionalization of the Expanded PMTCT Technical Working Group, strengthening coordination across HIV, malaria and reproductive health programmes.
- Advanced integration of HIV within RMNCAEH systems through policy alignment, coordinated implementation and evidence informed decision-making.
- Contributed technical input into Global Fund GC7 and GC8 funding proposals.
- Led implementation of the HIVE Capability Maturity Model (CMM), resulting in 6 sub-national action plans to strengthen decentralized health system performance.
- Established 20 Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) projects across supported facilities.
- Trained 241 healthcare workers in Continuous Quality Improvement methodologies.
- Trained 200 government and healthcare workers on implementation of the HIVE Capability Maturity Model.
- Designed and facilitated competency-based capacity-building programmes reaching 5,000+ healthcare workers across Nigeria.
- Strengthened leadership capacity for state governments, facility managers and frontline healthcare workers through mentorship, supportive supervision and implementation coaching.

Core Competencies: Strategic Leadership Health Systems Strengthening Organizational Development Government Advisory Programme Governance Team Leadership Change Management Executive Stakeholder Engagement Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (MNCH) RMNCAEH Primary Health Care HIV & PMTCT Tuberculosis Family Planning Adolescent Health Nutrition Viral Hepatitis Triple Elimination Service Integration Donor Programme Management Portfolio Management Budget Oversight Risk Management Grant Management Annual Work Planning Programme Design Adaptive Management Continuous Quality Improvement Implementation Science Monitoring & Evaluation Data Use for Decision-Making Learning Networks Knowledge Management Health Information Systems Ministry of Health Engagement Development Partner Coordination Technical Working Groups Public Private Partnerships Resource Mobilization Policy Development Advocacy

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Country Lead- HIVE Project, Nigeria

Paediatric Adolescent Treatment Africa/ICAP

2024-Present

Abuja

October

Health Policy and Advocacy Leader driving evidence informed reforms across Primary Health Care, RMNCAEH, HIV, Immunization, Family Planning and Health Systems Strengthening through government engagement, coalition building, policy influence and implementation accountability.

Achievements:

- Influenced 40+ federal, state and donor stakeholders, resulting in joint implementation plans across 20 priority facilities and establishment of state-led governance structures that accelerated PMTCT improvement actions.
- Helped revise national HIV guidelines, DSD Operational Manual, ANC Guidelines, PMTCT guidance, implementation frameworks.
- Developed briefs implementation reports dashboards CQI reports maturity assessments situation analyses
- Catalyzed, TWGs, donor meetings, partner forums, CQUIN, HIVE ,PATA ,National learning collaboratives.
- Developed Continuous Quality Improvement scorecards, dashboards implementation tracking, maturity models tools and partner accountability matrix.
- Directed the implementation of a US\$700,000 Gates Foundation-funded programme strengthening integrated HIV, maternal, newborn and child health services across Adamawa and Delta States.
- Led implementation of the HIVE Capability Maturity Model (CMM), resulting in the development and updating of 6 decentralized action plans that strengthened state planning and accountability for vertical transmission prevention.
- Enabled 200 government officials and healthcare workers on decentralized implementation of the HIVE Capability Maturity Model, strengthening institutional capacity for quality improvement and programme governance.
- Strengthened commitment of national governance by supporting establishment of the Expanded PMTCT Technical Working Group, improving coordination across HIV, malaria, reproductive health and maternal health programmes.
- Advanced integration of HIV within RMNCAEH systems through coordinated policy implementation, technical assistance and evidence-informed planning, improving alignment between national programmes.
- Established 20 facility based Continuous Quality Improvement projects, creating sustainable systems for performance improvement across supported health facilities.
- Built capacity of 241 healthcare workers in CQI methodologies, strengthening local ownership of quality improvement and data-driven decision-making.
- Institutionalized routine programme performance reviews, mentorship and supportive supervision, improving state-level monitoring, accountability and implementation quality.
- Secured national monitoring systems by integrating Vertical Transmission Prevention indicators into HIV monitoring frameworks, supporting more evidence-based programme

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management despite constrained funding.

- Mobilized collaboration between Federal and State Governments, implementing partners and development agencies, improving programme alignment and reducing duplication of technical assistance.

National DSD Coordinator

Abuja

ICAP Global Health Technical Assistance to

National AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and STI Control Program

Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria

Garki,

Feb 2023 – July 2024

Provided national leadership for Nigeria's Differentiated Service Delivery programme, supporting policy development, implementation and scale-up of client-centred HIV service delivery models across the country.

Achievements:

- Led national implementation of differentiated service delivery strategies, strengthening person-centred HIV care across Nigeria.
- Coordinated national technical working groups that aligned government agencies, development partners and implementing organizations around common service delivery priorities.
- Supported revision and implementation of the National Differentiated Service Delivery Operational Manual, strengthening policy implementation nationwide.
- Influenced integration of Family Planning, Non-Communicable Diseases and mental health into differentiated HIV service delivery models.
- Supported development of Global Fund GC7 implementation strategies and national operational guidance.

Technical Advisor on COVID 19 response mechanism

Department of Treatment, Care and Support

National AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and STI control Program

Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria

Garki, Abuja

Oct – April 2023

Key achievements :

- Facilitated and sponsored stakeholders review meeting to retrospectively aggregate contexts and lessons learned by IPs during the Covid pandemic with respect to continuity of HIV services in the context of emergencies
- Facilitated dialogues with the NPHCDA on the methodology for data abstraction and analysis to track AEFIs specific to vaccinated HIV beneficiaries of care.
- Supported the recrafting of the current COVID-19 Workplan by the National AIDS and STIs Control Program(NASCP) to prioritize Health Systems Strengthening Activities that align with the current normative guidance as against COVID-19- Core Activities
- Worked with other stakeholders and IPs across agencies on the scale up and optimization of HIV-19/COVID-19 bi-directional testing

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- Provide technical assistance to the MOH, National vaccination program, and relevant partners for the design and implementation of country interventions related to COVID-19 response.
- Identified and prioritized capacity development activities for strengthening national and regional level expertise in monitoring and supervision in collaboration with the MOH, private sector actors, and other relevant team members and partners
- Developed a clear strategy on the private sector engagement as a part of COVID-19 response and immunization and HIV programming in Nigeria. Guide and oversee the work of technical consultants both internal and external to ensure they have what they need to carry out their work and ensure deliverables are achieved in a timely and quality manner.

State Clinical Thematic Lead

Niger

State

RISE Project ICAP Nigeria

June 2021 –

Sept. 2022

Key Achievement :

- Strengthened implementation of integrated HIV, TB and PMTCT services across supported facilities through clinical mentorship and quality improvement.
- Improved multidisciplinary collaboration between clinicians, pharmacists, laboratory teams and programme managers, strengthening coordinated patient care.
- Increased compliance with national treatment guidelines through routine mentorship, supportive supervision and performance monitoring.
- Strengthened data quality and programme performance by institutionalizing routine data review meetings and evidence-based decision-making.

Referral System Strengthening Lead

Akwa-Ibom

Health Initiative for Safety and Sustainability in Africa.

Oct 2018 – May 2020

Strengthened bilateral referral linkages between clients from testing to treatment points. Worked closely with the state and local government as well as key stakeholders to eliminate all formal and informal user fees in the public sector for access to all direct HIV services and related services, such as ANC and TB services affecting access to HIV testing, treatment, and prevention. Aligned OVC package of services and enrolment to provide comprehensive prevention and treatment services to Orphan and Vulnerable Children ages 0-17 years of age. Partnered with the Government of Nigeria to increase domestic resources to eliminate user fees and increase access to HIV prevention and treatment services for all persons.

Key Achievements:

Nutrition Officer

Akwa-Ibom

Akwa Ibom State LOPIN 3 USAID Project

March –

Dec 2018

HIFASS

Key Achievements:

- Provided nutritional assessment, emergency support and clinical referral services to severely malnourished HIV positive, Orphan, and vulnerable children. Re-orientate CSO partners on food security, nutrition, and WASH, of which participants are equipped with adequate information about nutrition and

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feeding of young children and adolescent which brings about improved preventive healthcare practice at Household level of the state.

- Ensured timely and accurate reporting on nutrition activities of the state that enables informed decision making and ensure its consistent when presented to stakeholders.
- Liaise with implementing partners on nutrition to monitor ongoing projects, ensuring effective collaboration, timeliness, and efficiency, where highlights of potential risks are noticed.
- Coordinated alignment with wider nutrition policies and guidance, participated in relevant nutrition and food assistance co-ordination forums, workshops, and trainings, with government authorities, partners, and all other relevant stakeholders, as required.
- Assisted in strengthening a system of reporting on program progress against stated objectives and monitoring evaluation frameworks. Contribute to the development of program strategies, subproject documents, work plans and budgets. Represent the organization to donors and government officials on issues of Nutrition, care and support at the state level.
- Formalized the bi-directional assisted referral and linkage systems between community- and clinic-based programs. Through integrated, coordinated systems and advocacy, 91,323 orphans and vulnerable children of HIV +Adults, FSW, diagnosed with Tuberculosis, with moderate to severe malnutrition, HIV exposed infants (HEI), Adolescent girls at high risk of infection and their caregivers including 4723 new pediatric cases access to health, nutrition, and social services, which has resulted in better health status and lower vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in Akwa Ibom state.
- Co-ordinated bimonthly cluster referral coordination meeting across 11 designated LGAs in Awka Ibom state to ensure a minimum standard nationalized functional referral system is maintained within points of services in communities, community-facility, facility-organization to meet the needs of OVC comprehensively in an integrated manner and ensure interventions is carried out timely. At post coordination meetings, referral completion rates are assessed to identify challenges and successes, plans and processes are adjusted for improved results/outcome. I was also saddled with the responsibilities to increase pediatric HIV case findings in communities; and ensured through assisted referral services these children were linked to the facility are retained in care; thus, Retention in care and treatment at facility level is optimal.
- Carried out mapping of all available health/ART and related services within its localities; Existing health facilities within clusters of operational LGAs were mapped for enrolled OVC and caregivers to access health and other social services such as HIV testing, prevention, treatment, viral load monitoring and sexual violence prevention and response services.
- Engaged with all IPs and other stakeholders of the state for effective synergy of efforts timely comprehensive data validation, collection towards HIV epidemic control.
- Worked closely with the State Gender Base Specialist in strengthening referrals existing in States Ministries of Women Affairs & Social Development, Child Protection Networks (CPN) and Child Protection Center (CPC) to address and respond to cases of sexual abuse and violence, child neglect and exploitation at State, LGA and community levels.

Senior Technical Officer

Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

March 2018

FHI360/AHNI Nigeria

Akwa-Ibom

Feb 2015-

- Designed and delivered competency-based training programmes reaching more than 5,000 healthcare workers, strengthening implementation of HIV, PMTCT and integrated primary healthcare services.
- Strengthened implementation of national clinical guidelines through mentoring, supportive supervision

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and on-site technical assistance.

- Improved programme quality through data-driven performance monitoring, quality assurance and continuous capacity building.
- Built strong partnerships with State Ministries of Health and implementing partners, improving coordination of donor-supported programmes.

Key Achievements:

- Increased coverage of HTS across service delivery point (Community/Facility) 151,484 at 125% achievement as against set target 119,705.
- 64,443 of pregnant women and children are aware of their HIV status 85% achievement (GF Supported) against our target for the year, 861 positive enrolled into care and treatment.
- Over 90% of children are aware of their HIV Status.

Program Officer/Team Manager Quality Improvement Team D Nasarawa

Keffi,

IHVN (ART: Adult /Pediatrics, TB/HIV, PMTCT)
2015

Jan 2013- Feb

Institute of Human Virology(IHVN)

- Led the QI-related training and technical assistance activities, including but not limited to assisting with the design, delivery and management of QI training and capacity building initiatives.
- Led the strategic planning, including the development and implementation of QI training needs assessments, as well as ongoing reviews and evaluation of training activities in country.
- Provided hands-on support to both face-to-face training and distance education projects, including but not limited to conducting training sessions, webinars, and other QI projects.
- Provided technical assistance and implementation support to QI projects (including QI Collaboratives and other QI initiatives) in low-resource settings, largely in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Documented QI training and technical assistance activities and helped to produce reports.
- Provided quality improvement to all newly upgraded and existing HIV/TB DOTS and spoken sites to ensure that all positive clients are enrolled, commenced, and retained in care in line with the vision 90 90 90 of UNAIDS.
- Built strong partnership and collaboration with Nasarawa State LACA, LGA, Health Authority, FBOs and CBOs, program facilities, traditional/religious leaders, and other relevant stakeholders to achieve massive scale up of HIV HCT, ART and care and support in line with PEPFAR strategic goals.
- Strengthened referral linkages and feedback mechanisms between the various referral units within the facility and communities.
- Maintained close communication and coordination between HIV/TB DOTS referrals for other health needs and documentation.
- Worked, trouble shoot and proffer solutions during clinic day at hub site and spoke sites team to identify facility and patient needs and maintain a continuum of care.
- Routine monitoring, mentoring/supervisory visits to sites within the data capturing of program activity on site using designated data collecting tool in different thematic areas, ensuring qualitative data entry and prompt submission which occurs monthly
- Conducted local government area, building capacity/hands on training of site staffs, ad hoc staffs, and linkage coordinators thus ensuring that quality/project activities adhere to SOP's, thereby supporting development and implementation of appropriate mechanism to ensure quality of all program intervention.
- Also, part of my responsibilities includes drawing up a monthly work plan that entails specific activities,

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tasks and resource requirement which translates to specific objectives of our targets to be achieved within a month, enabling open and objective appraisal/evaluation.

- Coordinated the training planning process to ensure that training activities were implemented according to approved work plans, approved deadlines, and within the budget limitations.
- Managed training budgets and material resources, according to the policies and guidelines of GF.
- Updated and maintained a database of the organization- approved trainers and all partner staff that have been trained.
- Represented IHVN at state level meetings and technical meetings with other Partners such as Case management and M&E sub-committee meetings.

Participated in state-wide monitoring and supervisory visits and data quality audits to ensure data quality on the DHIS, flag data quality issues and follow up with the M & E team to ensure these issues are resolved

Achievements:

- Led the QI-related training and technical assistance activities, including but not limited to: assisting with the design, delivery and management of QI training and capacity building initiatives.
- Led the strategic planning, including the development and implementation of QI training needs assessments, as well as ongoing reviews and evaluation of training activities in country.
- Provided hands-on support to both face-to-face training and distance education projects, including but not limited to conducting training sessions, webinars, and other QI projects.
- Provided technical assistance and implementation support to QI projects (including QI Collaboratives and other QI initiatives) in the state,
- Submitted report on QI training and technical assistance activities for the State.

MEDICAL EXPERIENCE

Medical Officer/Manager, Guinea Savannah Medical Centre

Garki,

Abuja

Guinea Savannah Medical Centre

Nov 2011

– Dec 2012

Medical officer providing medical evaluation, treatment, and consultation services to pediatric ,in-patient and out-patients. Analyzing test results and accurately diagnosing patients. Providing basic care, managing emergency conditions, and pediatric admission. Ensuring up to date practice protocols are in use, focused on improving efficiency in clinical care.

Medical Intern

Ikeja, Lagos

Duro Soley Specialist Hospital, Allen Avenue, Ikeja, Lagos.

Dec 2010 to Oct 2011

Intern on clinical rotation in various hospital departments, including pediatric, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, and medicine. Initial contact for patient consultation and admission. Routine emergency department consultation. Performed minor procedures- lumpectomy, episiorrhaphy, appendectomy, dilation, and curettage- and managed routine births. Also, assist the consultant obstetrician-gynecologist and general surgeon in theatre with more complex surgical procedures.

AWARDS

Award for Best Performing State in Biometrics Achievement and Target

Sept 2021

Annual award on the RISE project, Nigeria USAID PEPFAR Funded

Reaching Impact ,Saturation and Epidemic Control

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Role:

Award for Best Performing State in Case Finding

Sept 2021

Annual award on the RISE project, Nigeria USAID PEPFAR Funded
Reaching Impact, Saturation and Epidemic Control

Role:

Award for the most Improved State

Sept 2022

Annual Award on the RISE project, Nigeria USAID PEPFAR Funded

Role:

MEDIA OUTLET | POSTERS | PRESENTATIONS | CERTIFICATIONS

Media Outlet:

1. Ekanem, C. (2023, May 4). The CQUIN Learning Network. CQUIN.
<https://cquin.icap.columbia.edu/news/2023-cquin-member-country-dsd-self-assessments-show-marked-improvements/>
2. Ekanem, C. (2023, Oct 12). Zambia hosts Nigeria in Country Learning Visit Focused on Differentiated Service Delivery for Men. <https://cquin.icap.columbia.edu/news/zambia-hosts-nigeria-in-country-learning-visit-focused-on-differentiated-service-delivery-for-men/>
3. Ekanem, C. (2023, November 13). Panelist, CQUIN 7th Annual Meeting.
<https://cquin.icap.columbia.edu/event/cquin-7th-annual-meeting/agenda/>

Posters:

1. Ekanem, C, Review of additional Data Elements (IPT, AHD, VL, Cervical Cancers) in the 2022 Nigeria DPR, Poster presented at HIV Learning Network, ICAP Global Health, May 2024

Conference Presentation:

1. Ekanem, C, Review of additional Data Elements (IPT, AHD, VL, Cervical Cancers) in the 2022 Nigeria DPR, Poster presented at HIV Learning Network, ICAP Global Health, May 2024

Training | Certifications:

Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) and Advanced Pediatric Life Support (APLS)
Leadership and management Health (University of Washington)
Introduction to Epidemiology for Global Health (University of Washington)
Project Management in Global Health (University of Washington)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

1. American Public Health Association (APHA), Member
2. International Aids Society (Member)
3. Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Member
4. Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), Member

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References upon request.