



# VIRAL HEPATITIS ELIMINATION PROGRAM

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## BACKGROUND

Viral Hepatitis B and C contribute to global mortality with over 1.3M deaths per year. Both infections account for 9% of total deaths from all cancers each year.

Nigeria contributes to this global burden with prevalence rates of 8.1% and 1.1% for HBV and HCV respectively. However, some states like Nasarawa have shown higher prevalence rates in double digits. A study conducted by the Nasarawa State Ministry of Health (NSMOH) showed HCV seropositivity rates of 13.2%.

Since 2017, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) has supported NSMOH institute interventions to accelerate access to HCV curative treatments.

Building off these efforts, the Nasarawa State Government, under the leadership of His Excellency, Engr. Abdullahi Sule, recognized this high burden of HCV and committed to a 5-year HCV Elimination Plan with an initial seed fund of N40m.

## Nasarawa State Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan

The journey to Nasarawa State Viral Hepatitis Elimination commenced on August 20, 2019, when CHAI, led by the Senior leadership team comprising David Ripin, Owens Wiwa, and Craig McClure paid an advocacy visit to the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State, Engr. Abdullahi Sule. This succeeded the visit by the CHAI Nigeria Hepatitis Team to the Deputy Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Akabe led by Ibrahim



CHAI leadership visit to the Executive Governor

Abdullahi (Special Adviser, Investment and Economic Planning). The Governor attested to the high HCV burden in his state and was poised to reduce the debilitating effect of this disease on the citizens of Nasarawa. He yielded his commitment to addressing this burden and ensure good quality of life for the residents of Nasarawa.

On February 20, 2020, the Governor, pronounced a 5-year (2020 – 2024) HCV Elimination plan with a goal to treat ~124k persons. This is in line with the goals of the Nasarawa Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) to improve



Pronouncement of HCV Elimination by His Excellency

human capital development. A Viral Hepatitis Technical Working Group (VHTWG), Chaired by the Honourable Commissioner for Health, was inaugurated to develop and drive the HCV Elimination implementation strategy with the Deputy Governor providing State-level leadership.



Engr. Abdullahi Sule  
The Executive Governor



Dr. Emmanuel Akabe  
Deputy Governor



Pharm. Ahmed Yahaya  
Commissioner for Health  
and Chair, VHTWG



Prof. Ishaku Bako  
Co-Chair, VHTWG



Dr. Ibrahim Adamu  
Dir. of Public Health



Nasarawa State Government and the CHAI Team



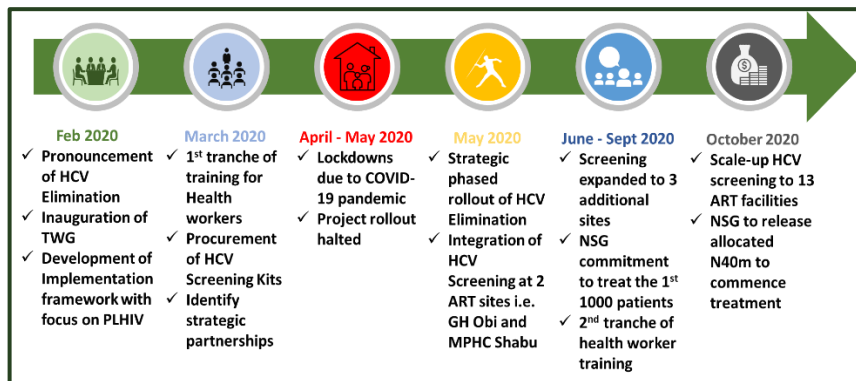
TWG Members at the Inauguration in Government House

## The Viral Hepatitis TWG Strategic Approach to HCV Elimination

Building off this momentum, an inaugural meeting of the TWG was held to develop the implementation framework working across four subcommittees namely: (i) Resource Mobilization, (ii) Service Delivery, (iii) Supply Chain and Logistics, and (iv) Prevention and Awareness Creation, with a Steering Committee to provide coordination. Taking learnings from other countries, a four-pronged approach was developed to guide implementation i.e. plan wisely, test smart, cure-all, and prevent new cases. Through this strategic approach, the focus for the first phase is to achieve HCV micro elimination in the PLHIV population. The diagrams below provide a snapshot of the program progress and the screening updates thus far.



### Program Progress

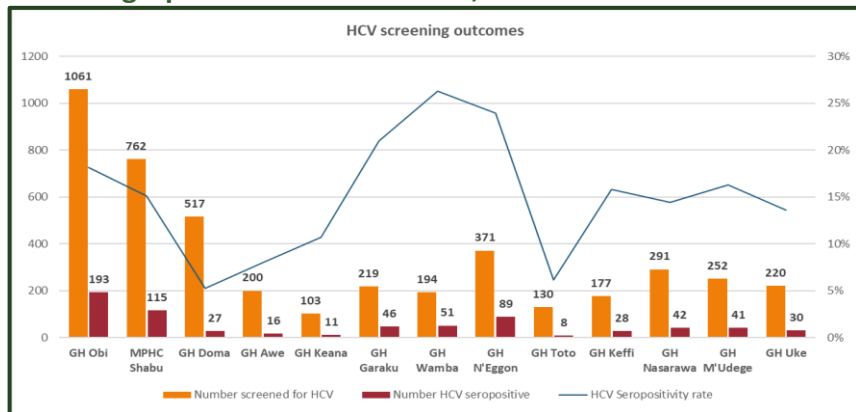


### Highlights of Next Issue

The next issue will provide a deep dive into the activities of the subcommittees, highlighting the implementation strategies amidst the financing challenge associated with the hepatitis landscape. Topics to be covered include:

- The financing approach and available options to leverage for potential collaborations
- Review of the screening approach and seropositive rates across LGAs in the State
- Case finding approach and demand generation

### Screening Updates as at November, 2020



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