

PROJECT REPORT

Project Title	USAID TB LON 1 &2 Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) Project
Consultant	Equitable Health Access Initiative (EHAI)
State of Implementation	Akwa Ibom State
Country	Nigeria
Type of Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final report (October 2021 to September 2022)
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Submission Date	20th October 2022
Submitted To	Dr. Sani Useni

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 12-month implementation of the project, the consultants achieved the following-

1. Increased domestic resources for TB control from Government and Private sector and institute a system for expenditure tracking of financing for TB control interventions within the state:

- Set up 15-member Akwa Ibom State TB Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) Technical Working Group (TWG).
- Facilitated the appointment of a DRM Desk Officer in the Ministry of Health.
- With zero budget for TB in the 2022 State Appropriation Law, worked through the TWG to secure the provision of N10,350,000.00 for TB intervention in 2022;
- Facilitated development of memo of N10,500,000 for capacity building for HCW.
- Successfully facilitated a strong and sustainable interface, cooperation and collaboration between the health ministry and the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Budget, Office of the Accountant General of the State, and other relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAS) to drive adequate and sustainable funding for TB control interventions in the State.
- Instituted the TWG as a functional system for tracking the utilization of funds and other resources from the Government and private sector for TB control.
- Facilitated identification, profiling, and engagement of private sector organizations for mobilization of additional resources for TB control.
- Facilitated the development of proposal and advocacy tools for generating funds and other resources for TB control from private sector organizations.

2. Support Akwa Ibom State integrate TB treatment and care into the minimum health benefit package in the state health insurance scheme:

- Facilitated the signing of the Akwa Ibom State Health Insurance Scheme bill into law by the Executive of the State in December 2021.
- Conducted high-level advocacy visit at the highest levels of Government for the commencement of the State Health Insurance Scheme.
- Worked with Akwa Ibom State National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) State Coordinator to develop draft policy documents for commencement of the State Health Insurance Scheme.

Critical Constraints / Challenges:

- Zero budget for TB control in Akwa Ibom State 2022 Appropriation Law
- Lack of political will, interest, and motivation by the Executive Governor to commence Health Insurance Scheme
- Paucity of funds and resources to conduct a proper high-level advocacy meeting with critical stakeholders and high-level policymakers in Government and political space
- Executive Governors was distracted for a long period of time due to his participation in the presidential primaries of his party



SECTION 2: KEY OBJECTIVES



To support Rivers State integrate TB treatment and care into the minimum health benefit package in the state health insurance scheme.



To work with the state TB program and other TB stakeholders to address key identified gaps in the sustainability capacity assessment results for Rivers State.








To institute a system for expenditure tracking of public financing of TB within the state.





SECTION 3: STRATEGIC STEPS TAKEN TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES

STEP	DATE	ACTIVITY	OUTCOME/ RESULT
1	27th – 28th October 2021 25th – 26th November 2021	Desk Review of “ Report of Sustainability Capacity Assessment for Akwa-Ibom State TB and Leprosy Control Program and State Health Insurance Scheme ” as well as other relevant policy and literature documents on the Akwa Ibom State TB program, Budgeting and Finance policies and practices.	Development of strategic plans and interventions to address key gaps identified within allowable budgetary limits and Terms of Reference of the consultancy.
2	27th and 28th October 2021	Entry level meeting with Akwa Ibom State TB Program Manager.	Buy in cooperation and commitment of the State TB Manager to the DRM Project.
3	25th November 2021	Entry Level Meeting with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honorable Commissioner, AKS MoH • Senior Special Assistant/Coordinator Department of Multilateral and Donor Agencies in the Office of the Executive Governor • Permanent Secretary AKS MoH • Director of Medical Services, Akwa Ibom State MoH 	Obtained buy-in, cooperation and commitment of these high level policymakers to the DRM Project.

STRATEGIC STEPS TAKEN TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES

STEP	DATE	ACTIVITY	OUTCOME/ RESULT
4 	7th November 2021	Advocacy Visit to the Secretary to the State Government of Akwa Ibom State.	Obtained his buy-in and support in achieving increased government funding for TB and the Executive Governors signing of AKS SHIS bill into law , and TB service integration into the benefit package of the SHIS.
5 	8th February 2022	Meeting with High Level Policy Makers on Domestic Resource Mobilization in Akwa Ibom State.	Obtained their buy-in and support in achieving increased government funding for TB, getting the Executive Governor to sign the SHIS bill into law, get it operational and ensure TB services is integrated into the benefit package of the SHIS.
6 	15th March 2022	Setting up of the 15 Member Akwa Ibom State TB DRM TWG.	AKS TWG set up to drive mobilization of resources for TB program from Government and private sector as well as drive setting up of Akwa Ibom State Social Health Insurance Scheme and ensure Tb services is integrated into the benefit package.
7 	14th April 2022	Inauguration of AKS TB DRM TWG by the Honourable Commissioner for Health.	TWG became functional.
8 	14th April 2022; 7th June 2022; 21st July 2022; 31st August 2022; 30th September 2022	Monthly Review Meetings of the AKS TWG.	Development of strategies, identification and finding solutions to challenges of mobilizing resources for TB control from Government and private sector as well as commencement of Akwa Ibom State Social Health Insurance Scheme.

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SECTION 4: ACHIEVEMENTS



OBJECTIVE 1

Increased domestic resources for TB control from Government and Private sector and institute a system for expenditure tracking of financing for TB within the state.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1 Set up 15 member Akwa Ibom State TB DRM TWG.
- 2 With zero budget for TB in the 2022 state appropriation law, worked through the TWG to secure commitment from the Department of Planning Research and Statistics of the MoH, Ministry of Finance and Budget for the provision of N10,350,000.00 for TB intervention in 2022.
- 3 Facilitated development of memo of N10,500,000 for capacity building for HCW (from the TB AOP). The memo is currently with the Executive Governor with assurances of its approval.
- 4 Engagement of the private sector for mobilization of additional resources for TB control.
- 5 For the first in the health sector, the consultants have facilitated a strong interface, cooperation and collaboration between health ministry and the ministries of Finance and Budget as well as Office of the Accountant General of the State to drive TB control agenda in the State.
- 6 Instituted the TWG as a functional system for tracking utilization of funds and other resources from the Government and private sector for TB control.



OBJECTIVE 1

Increased domestic resources for TB control from Government and Private sector and institute a system for expenditure tracking of financing for TB within the state.



OBJECTIVE 2

Support Akwa Ibom state integrate TB treatment and care into the minimum health benefit package in the state health insurance scheme.



OBJECTIVE 3

Work with the state TB program and other TB stakeholders to address key identified gaps in the sustainability capacity assessment results for Akwa Ibom State. Work with the state TB program and other TB stakeholders to address key identified gaps in the sustainability capacity assessment results for Akwa Ibom State.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 7 Facilitated development of proposal and advocacy tools for generating funds and other resources for TB control from private sector organizations.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1 Facilitated the signing of the Akwa Ibom State Health Insurance Scheme bill into law by the Executive of the State in December 2021.
- 2 Strong advocacy at the highest levels for the commencement of the State Health Insurance Scheme.
- 3 Worked with Akwa Ibom State National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) State Coordinator to develop draft policy documents, guidelines, frameworks and Benefit Package (with TB services integrated) for the State Health Insurance Scheme.

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SECTION 5: CRITICAL CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES



Zero budget for TB control in Akwa Ibom State 2022 Appropriation Law.



Lack of political will, interest and motivation by the Executive Government to appoint a board and commence Akwa Ibom State Health Insurance Scheme.



Paucity of funds and resources to conduct a proper high level advocacy meeting with critical stakeholders and high level policy makers in Government and political space.



Executive Governor's participation in the presidential primaries of his party and deep involvement in ongoing presidential campaign has been a major distraction from appointing a board for the State Health Insurance Scheme.

SECTION 6: OBSERVATIONS, ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION



1. The Akwa Ibom State TB DRM TWG has successfully brought together senior level (Director and PS) stakeholders from the Ministries of Health, Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Accountant General, House of Assembly, Private Hospitals and other Departments and Agencies to a round table to discuss and drive agenda solely aimed at mobilizing resources for sustainable financing of TB interventions in AKS.
2. In less than 8 months, the AKS TB DRM TWG has generated commendable momentum towards the mobilization of resources by State actors for health interventions in the State
3. Engagement of private sector organizations to support TB control interventions in the State, through well-crafted proposals and targeted advocacy tools is also happening for the first time in the State with support from the consultants.
4. The influence of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other members of the TWG can be effectively leveraged to secure support for TB control from the State Government private sector, philanthropists and politicians.

STEP 7: RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS



The USAID TB LON 2 DRM project has demonstrated potential to mobilize resources from Government and private sector for TB control in Akwa Ibom State.



The TB LON 2 DRM TWG needs to keep building on its modest success by ensuring it continues meeting regularly.



There is a dire need for sustained and increased funding for the USAID TB LON 2 DRM project to ensure it can scale its activities to include interventions that will impact directly on health financing for TB in the State. Some of these activities will include capacity-building workshops on memo writing, proposal writing, budgeting, Integrated Public Sector Accounting Systems (IPSAS) etc., for all relevant stakeholders in the State.



Other activities requiring funding for optimized domestic resource mobilization will include conducting Actuarial Studies to review how TB can be realistically integrated (in phases, based on penetration and population coverage) into the benefit package of the AKSHIS.



The consultants will continue to engage the Director of Public Health to follow up with the Honourable Commissioner for approval of the N10,350,000.00 memo for capacity building of frontline Healthcare Workers in the State.



The proposals and advocacy tools will be finalized and submitted to the four organizations as soon as possible by the DRM Desk Officer.



The consultants will also continue to work with the NHIA and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the State Social Health Insurance Agency is set up and the Health Insurance Scheme kicks off in the last quarter of 2022.