



# Nigeria

Project HOPE started operations in Nigeria in 2012 and became a locally registered entity in 2018. Our focus areas include infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH), vulnerable populations (women, adolescents, and children), mental health, and health system strengthening.

## Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)

Under the USAID-funded Integrated Child Health and Social Services Award (ICHSSA 2), Project HOPE strengthens local organizations and state governments to plan for, finance, deliver, and monitor high-quality services to protect and care for OVC. To this end, Project HOPE supports advocacy, stakeholder mapping, organizational capacity assessments, coordination of the OVC Technical Steering Committee, and resource mobilization in Nigeria. Project HOPE assists local and state governments in using data to improve OVC services, while also strengthening their ability to have sufficient, high-performing human resources to protect and care for OVC. Through the USAID-funded Nigeria Local Partners for OVC project, Project HOPE mitigated the impact of HIV/AIDS on OVC in Akwa Ibom, Kano, Adamawa, and Cross River States, reaching over 24,000 beneficiaries.

## Economic Strengthening

### Building Futures for AYPLHIV through Skills, Resilience, and Innovation.

With support from Thermo Fisher Scientific, Project HOPE Nigeria launched a youth-centered initiative to empower adolescents and young persons living with HIV (AYPLHIV) in Northern Nigeria (Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara) through vocational training, mental health support, and life skills development. The program reached 165 beneficiaries through three state-supported Skills Incubation Centers, equipping participants with marketable skills in tailoring, IT, baking, and shoemaking—while integrating mental health resilience, adherence support, and soft skills training. Several participants have already begun generating income from their trades. The

## Project HOPE's Impact

Number of states strengthened: **13**

Akwa-Ibom, Edo, FCT, Kano, Kebbi, Kwara, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Plateau, Sokoto, Zamfara

### Resources developed

- Local Government Coordinator Guidelines for OVC Response in Lagos State
- Strategic plans for one state and ten local government areas
- OVC Service Referral Directory
- Para-social Workforce Curriculum
- Social & Para-social Workforce Staffing Plan
- FCT Joint External Evaluation (JEE) Mission Report
- Guidelines for the Integrated Screening and Management of TB, Asthma, Pneumonia, and Other Respiratory Diseases
- National Guideline for the Prevention and Management of Hypertension in Nigeria

program is a model of sustainability, leveraging government partnerships and private sector volunteerism to drive long-term impact, health equity, and youth economic empowerment in underserved regions.

Project HOPE, through the ICHSSA 2 project, engages with private sector actors including Access Bank, Nestle Foods, Honeywell Flour Mill, and others, to offer nutrition and economic support for OVC and their caregivers. Project HOPE is working to identify sustainable sources of financing for OVC interventions to supplement the government's limited funding for the OVC response.

## RMNCH

Project HOPE, with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through TA Connect, provides technical assistance to the Niger State government in scaling up the group antenatal care (ANC) model with the aim of improving the quality of RMNCH services. Project HOPE supports the government's strategic goal of increasing ANC coverage to 80% in the targeted areas and generating an evidence base to support other states in adopting the group ANC model. Project HOPE is helping Niger State to adapt, adopt, implement, and sustain a group ANC model as part of their primary health care delivery services and systems through the utilization of quarterly review meetings, mentorships, maternal and child health coordinator trainings, and integration of the model into relevant policy resources. Project HOPE is also supporting the State Malaria Elimination Program by revising their policies to include active case detection and treatment during pregnancy.

## HIV/AIDS: Prevention, Care and Treatment

Project HOPE, through the USAID-funded Accelerating Control of the Epidemic (ACE 3) project in Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara States, is supporting the Government of Nigeria, civil society organizations, and private sector actors in their focus on closing the gaps to epidemic control targets, addressing critical challenges in implementing their HIV response, and accelerating progress towards sustainable epidemic control. To work towards the achievement of the 95-95-95 goals, Project HOPE is employing proven and innovative community approaches and collaborating with relevant structures and partners to optimize HIV case finding, linkage, and retention in treatment and viral load suppression. Specifically, Project HOPE is focusing on utilizing community-based platforms like peer navigators, support groups, Operation Triple Zero, and community-facility referral coordination forums, in addition to participating in national- and state-level technical working group meetings.

## Mental Health and Resiliency

With funding from Thermo Fisher, Project HOPE established and facilitated youth mental health groups across Kano, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Ogun states. Led by trained facilitators and trusted community leaders, these groups provided safe, supportive

spaces for adolescents and young persons (AYPs) to explore healthy coping strategies for the economic, social, and political pressures affecting their lives. Over 19 groups were convened, helping to build emotional resilience, strengthen peer connections, and promote mental well-being among Nigerian youth—laying a critical foundation for long-term health and personal development.

Project HOPE, through the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, and in cooperation with Africa CDC, is implementing a mental health and resilience training for health care workers to increase their knowledge and access to tools and techniques to maintain their wellbeing and resilience during the fight against COVID-19. Project HOPE leads the implementation of these trainings by modifying the curriculum to local standards, identifying health care workers to serve as master trainers, and organizing training-of-trainer and cascade sessions to reach additional health care workers, either in-person or remotely. All trainings and materials are provided at no cost to participants, with over 400 health care workers reached to date across the targeted regions—enhancing capacity and strengthening frontline service delivery.



## Non-Communicable Diseases (Hypertension Control)

With funding from Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL), Project HOPE is implementing the second phase of the Nigeria Hypertension Control Initiative (NHCI) (2022–2025), aimed at reducing premature morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular diseases through scalable, cost-effective, and sustainable hypertension control at the primary health care (PHC) level. Operating in 496 public PHCs across Kano and Ogun States, the project leverages the WHO HEARTS technical package to improve hypertension screening, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term control. NHCI strengthens health systems by building the capacity of frontline health workers, improving data reporting and use via DHIS2, and enhancing availability and affordability of antihypertensive medications. Through targeted mentoring and task-shifting approaches, non-physician providers are equipped to manage hypertension cases effectively. Project HOPE also works closely with government



stakeholders to promote policy ownership and sustainability by integrating hypertension care into state operational plans, expanding digital monitoring tools, and advocating for inclusion in existing health insurance and financing mechanisms like the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF). With a focus on improving patient retention, adherence, and community awareness, NHCI is a proven model for national scale-up and achieving Nigeria's Universal Health Coverage goals.



## Advancing Integrated Lung Health in Nigeria through TB REACH Wave 11

Through the innovative EXALT project, Project HOPE is pioneering an integrated service delivery model for tuberculosis (TB), asthma, and pneumonia in Niger State, Nigeria—bringing care closer to underserved populations. With support from the Stop TB Partnership's TB REACH Wave 11 grant, the organization has strengthened diagnostic and treatment capacity across 15 PHCs and surrounding communities, screening 3,564 individuals in Q1 2025 and enrolling 18 newly diagnosed TB patients on treatment. Additionally, 107 pneumonia and 40 asthma cases were identified, with over 90% receiving care.

Project HOPE developed and deployed clinical tools, trained over 60 frontline and community health workers—60% of whom are women—and introduced digital health innovations such as AI-enabled portable X-rays and spirometry. By integrating lung health services, the project has reduced stigma, improved early case detection, and empowered state health systems to deliver equitable care.

In partnership with Niger State's Ministry of Health, Project HOPE is advancing sustainability through strategic advocacy, community engagement, and insurance linkages to reduce out-of-pocket costs. The EXALT model is now positioned for expansion and scale-up, reinforcing Project HOPE's leadership in integrated respiratory care and health systems strengthening in Nigeria.

## Pandemic Preparedness and Response

To strengthen Nigeria's pandemic preparedness, Project HOPE supported the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to complete its first-ever Joint External Evaluation (JEE) in 2024, fully funding and coordinating the assessment process. In June 2025, Project HOPE led the high-level dissemination of the JEE findings and is now supporting the development of the Strategic Action Plan for Health Security (SAPHS) to close identified gaps in surveillance, lab systems, workforce, and emergency response. This effort positions the FCT as a national model for subnational health security and reflects Project HOPE's commitment to building resilient public health systems aligned with global standards.

As part of the Nigeria Capacity Building for Infection Prevention and Control project, Project HOPE developed curriculum to train field epidemiologists on basic infection prevention and control (IPC), healthcare-associated infection surveillance, and outbreak investigation in health care facilities. Project HOPE supported the Nigeria Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program to build the capacity of physicians and lab officers in IPC and outbreak response. As a result, 53 health care workers from the six targeted tertiary health institutions in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria were trained over the course of two workshops.

## Climate and Health

Nigeria is classified as highly vulnerable to climate change due to a combination of political, geographic, and social factors, with limited preparedness. It is ranked 152nd out of 187 countries in the 2022 Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Index. Project HOPE is collaborating with New York Health and Hospitals to develop and pilot a training for healthcare workers on effective training on climate change and health to help healthcare workers better understand the health impacts of climate change, communicate effectively with patients and peers, and help patients take proactive steps to mitigate the effects of climate change and protect their health and well-being.