



Over 50,000 PLWHA on GHAIN-supported ART

(As at June 2008)



Milestones

Introduction

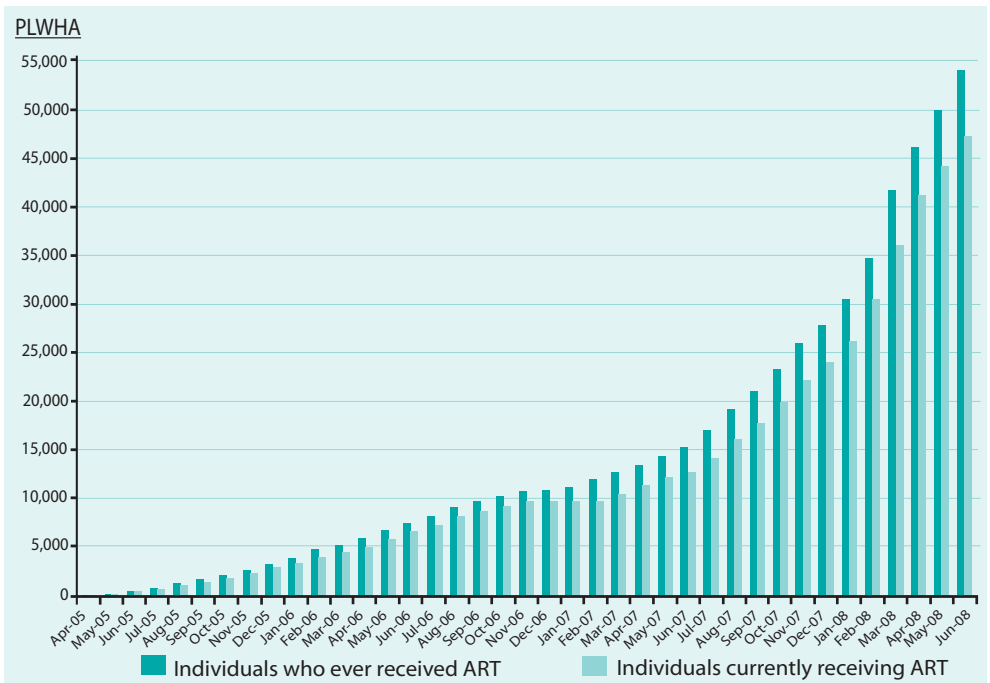
About 3.8 million of Nigeria's 140 million people are living with HIV. Of these,¹14% require antiretroviral therapy (ART). Since 2004 the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has funded the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) to support Nigeria's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The United States Government support has enabled Nigeria to scale up ART and other services aimed at reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS.

The achievement

By the end of June 2008 GHAIN had supported health facilities in Nigeria to place 53,676 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) on ART, of whom 33,607 were women, and 2,834 children.

How did GHAIN achieve this?

Since 2005 GHAIN has been supporting the Government of Nigeria (GON) by working through public, private and non-profit agencies to get as many PLWHA who need treatment on ART. GHAIN provided technical assistance to strengthen existing systems for effective ART service delivery. Over 2,400 health care workers have been trained on ART management. Referral coordination, logistics, monitoring and



¹Source: UNAIDS/WHO 2008



A GHAIN logistics officer with drugs in storage

evaluation, and client education management have been enhanced in 98 GHAIN-supported comprehensive sites (mainly general hospitals) throughout Nigeria. GHAIN-supported ART services integrate prevention into care and treatment and promote treatment adherence and management of opportunistic infections. PLWHA are linked to treatment sites, support groups and community-based organizations through the enhanced referral system.

Achieving PEPFAR goals for Nigeria

GHAIN is one of the projects working with the GON to achieve the following PEPFAR goals for Nigeria by the end of 2008:

- At least 350,000 PLWHA, out of the total number of people infected with HIV in Nigeria, will receive treatment with antiretroviral drugs;
- At least 1.5 million people will receive HIV/AIDS care and support;
- About 1.15 million new HIV infections will be prevented.



More work ahead ...

This is a landmark achievement but many more people need ART. Access to service and strengthening of care and support systems in the public sector need further work and investment.

GHAIN is a five-year project funded by PEPFAR through the US Agency for International Development. It is a consortium of four international partners – Family Health International (FHI), Axios Foundation, Howard University, and the German Leprosy and TB Relief Association (GLRA) – which collaborate with the Government of Nigeria in strengthening and expanding a wide range of HIV/AIDS services in Nigeria.

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