

RACE TO END HIV

ACCESS BANK LAGOS CITY MARATHON 2020
HIV COUNSELLING AND TESTING



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nigeria had the second-largest HIV epidemic in the world and one of the highest rates of new infection in sub-Saharan Africa. Many people living with HIV in Nigeria are also unaware of their status. In 2018 an estimated 1.9 million people were living with HIV in Nigeria, with only 67% of them aware of their status (UNAIDS, 2019).

According to the National HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS), there is some progress in ending HIV in Nigeria; HIV prevalence reduced nationally from 2.8% in 2017 to 1.4% in 2018, and HIV counselling and testing sites and treatment sites have increased. However, there is also an increase in the number of new cases, particularly among young people, especially girls aged 20–24. Factors that have influenced increased HIV vulnerability among young people include lack of adequate knowledge on HIV, poor access to sexual and reproductive health information, early sexual debut amongst others.

HIV counselling and testing is the gateway to care, treatment and support for persons in need. It gives those who are negative the opportunity to change behaviours that may put them at risk of the infection in future, and it links those who are positive to care. Unfortunately, there are still many barriers to testing for HIV, including fear, discrimination, stigmatisation and issues with confidentiality. To overcome this, we increase discussion on and provision of HIV testing. Novel ways of achieving this include promoting self-testing, community-based testing and multi-disease testing. Innovation, political will and increased investments are also needed to increase access to testing and treatment.

The Access Bank Lagos City Marathon is an annual global event bringing together athletes from all over the world to Lagos, Nigeria. The Nigerian Business Coalition Against AIDS (NiBUCAA) and HACEY Health Initiative with support from Access Bank Plc provided access to free HIV counselling and testing (HTC) to athletes and spectators at the marathon as well as communities along the marathon path. The program was implemented in two phases; the first phase was implemented during the 5-day marathon exhibition held at the Teslim Balogun Stadium in Surulere, Lagos. During the 5-day event, a total of 2276 (two thousand, two hundred and seventy-six) people were tested using the professional ethics of HTC with 8 HIV positive results recorded. The second phase was implemented on the marathon day at the Eko Atlantic City in Victoria Island, Lagos. This phase focused primarily on promoting HIV prevention, testing and treatment information at the marathon and providing free counselling and testing to athletes, partners, guests and workers at the marathon. (Nine hundred and fifty-nine) people were tested during the marathon.



PROJECT SUMMARY



6 Days of public awareness, counselling and testing



23,468 people reached



3,235 people tested



11 positive cases



Film Screening to over 10,000 viewers



Press coverage highlighting the need for HIV testing



Over 10000 IEC materials distributed



Over 10,000 condoms distributed



Volunteers from the Access Bank Employee Volunteering Program



Documentary highlighting key engagement

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Stakeholders Mobilization



Striving for effective and sustainable solutions to world pressing issues require the joint effort of a diverse pool of stakeholders and pulling together valuable resources hence, the fight against HIV is not just a problem for the health sector but for all. Towards advancing the UNAIDS 90-90-90 treatment target, HIV testing and counselling outreach was incorporated into the Access Bank Lagos City Marathon. A range of stakeholders; private sector, government, health care workers, development organization etc. were engaged in the design, planning and implementation of the project. An essential element of the mobilisation was one on one engagement with the aid of IEC materials

Community Sensitization



An important aspect of the outreach was the sensitization which was aimed at increasing public knowledge on HIV/AIDS including prevalence, myths, transmission modes, prevention methods and self-care and improve perceptions about the benefits of knowing ones' status. The sensitization also focused on increasing the willingness of community members to know their HIV status through information, education and communication (IEC) materials and one on one engagement.

A team of trained volunteers who had knowledge and experience in HIV preventive messaging promotion were engaged for the sensitization exercise. The team engaged groups ranging from athletes, vendors and representative of government agencies, staff of the stadium and passers-by on the goal of the exercise and why it is important to know your status. The sensitization played a huge role in not only increasing public knowledge but also encouraging people to get tested and ultimately know their HIV status.

HIV Counselling and Testing



Encouraging people to honestly talk about HIV/AIDS can be a little tricky mostly because it raises very personal questions about people lives. The process of encouraging people to talk about such issues needs to be handed with great sensitivity and by an experienced counsellor and tester. The project engaged experienced counsellor and tester offering pre and post counselling test services and HIV testing using standard procedures and test kit.

Confidentiality of results and individuals was maintained. All individuals who tested positive to HIV were discretely referred to nearest health facilities close to them for management and therapy. As part of follow-up to ensure that those who test positive begin treatment as soon as possible, a trained counsellor is assigned to the client to check in on them ensuring they are receiving their treatment on regular basis as scheduled by the doctor.

Video Screening



To promote increased access to information, short video documentaries on HIV and Neglected Tropical diseases were screened during the Exhibition and Marathon project phases. The videos were in form of edutainment to entertain and educate those present. Counsellors and trained volunteers were also present to answer any questions viewers had about the content of the video or any other issue. The videos screened included Nigerian footballer Willian Ekong's Video on Ending the Neglected Tropical diseases and Access Bank sponsored animated video documentaries on HIV/AIDS. The videos helped inform on HIV and how young people can take action on HIV.

Video Documentary



A documentary was created during the event highlighting key events at the HIV testing and screening. It focused on highlighting the HIV screening process, mobilization, social engagement and the grand finale. The documentary also featured interviews with key people on the need for HIV testing and counselling as well as the significance of leveraging large events like the annual Access Lagos City Marathon for raising awareness to take action on HIV prevention and counselling and testing.





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During the counseling and testing exercise I learnt lot about the myth we believe about HIV, lots of what I believe was not true. Thanks to the organizers of this initiative that give us the opportunity.

”

-Tolani Mutiat Olajide (Spectator)

PROJECT HIV TESTING SUMMARY

	MALE					FEMALE					TOTAL
AGE	1-14	15-19	20-24	25-49	50+	1-14	15-19	20-24	25-49	50+	
	2	693	502	1065	94	3	360	139	361	16	3235
	2,356					879					
POSITIVE											
	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	2	3	1	11
	5					6					
NEGATIVE											
	2	693	500	1062	94	3	360	137	358	15	3,224
	2351					873					

3235
people tested

2356
males

879
females

11
positive cases

5
males tested positive

6
females tested positive





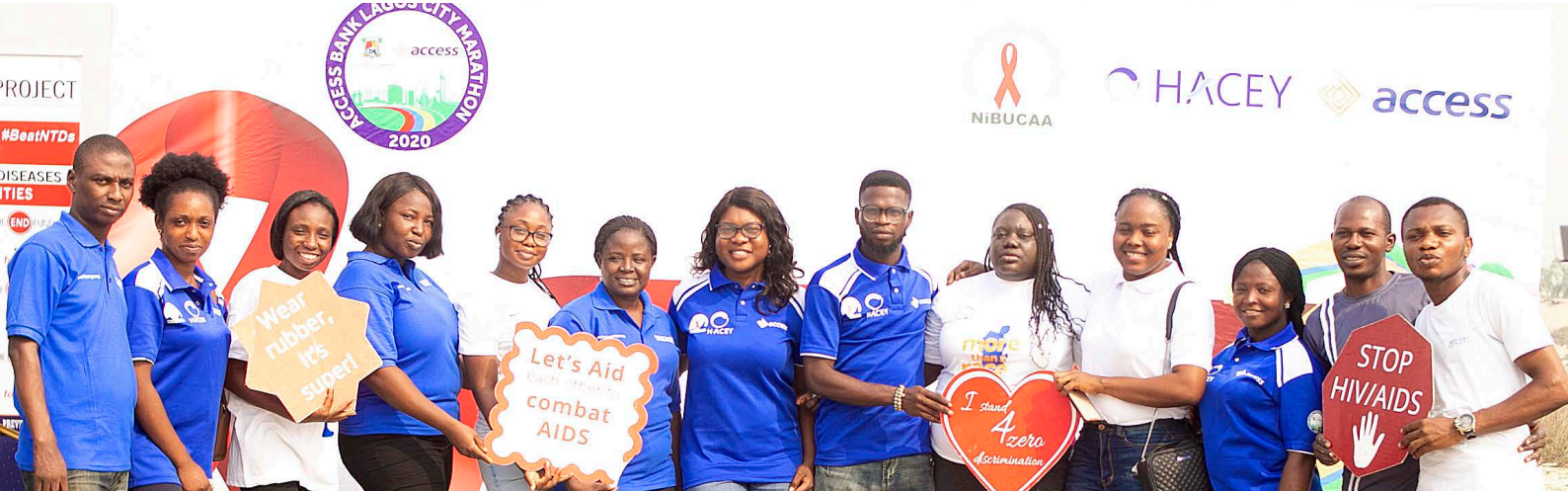
“

We should all join the race to end stigmatization against people living with HIV. it is inhuman to stigmatize.

”

- Austine Izu (Athlete)

RECOMMENDATIONS



- Increased collaboration between government, non-profits and private sectors organisation in raising awareness, providing free counselling and testing and antiretroviral therapy, including offering support to those affected by HIV.
- The importance of knowing your status should be a running theme throughout the marathon engagement.
- Athletes at the point of registration (online) and kits collection (at Stadium) should be provided with information about the free testing.
- More community outreach initiatives in rural areas to increase knowledge and awareness of HIV.
- Integrate free HIV/AIDS counselling and testing into large corporate and community events especially those focused on young people.
- The government, CSOs and private sectors must also make provision for self-testing, community-based testing services, and multi-disease testing targeted at helping people especially young people to know their HIV status.



If we must harness demographic dividend, we must curb the effects of HIV/AIDS that is slowly killing young people in Nigeria.



GALLERY

MOBILIZATION AND TESTING DURING KIT COLLECTION AT TESLIM BALOGUN STADIUM



GALLERY

HIV COUNSELLING AND TESTING AT THE ACCESS BANK LAGOS CITY MARATHON

