

Re-imagining Last Mile Distribution of Health Commodities for Equity and Resiliency in Nigeria

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Background

Mass protests against police brutality occurred across Nigeria in October 2020, many of which eventually turned violent.

The Calabar axial warehouse - one of the four axial warehouses in Nigeria managed by Akesis on behalf of Chemonics International for the GHSC-PSM project - was vandalized during the protests. As a result, the bi-monthly Last Mile Distribution (LMD) of ARVs and other drugs scheduled for November 2020 was significantly disrupted.



The Calabar axial warehouse after being vandalized.

Approach

Akesis' responsibility to save lives, in collaboration with Chemonics International, inspired the prompt relocation of Calabar operations to another axial warehouse in Awka, Anambra state, Nigeria.

The Akwa warehouse managed the receipt, order processing and dispatch operations of medicines and health commodities to the states and health facilities normally serviced by the vandalized Calabar warehouse.

Results

- Prevention of disruption to the supplies of ARV and other HIV commodities to 573 health facilities covering 97 Local Government Areas
- Uninterrupted supplies of life-saving ARVs and other medicines to service delivery points in five states



Calabar operations were quickly shifted to the Awka axial warehouse to ensure uninterrupted service and supplies.

Conclusion

Akesis' business continuity and risk mitigation plans in place provided the needed impetus to pivot immediate lifesaving operations to the nearest axial warehouse. This ensured an uninterrupted flow of HIV medicines and supplies to all of the HIV and malaria treatment facilities.



Lessons Learnt

Communities need to be appropriately and regularly sensitized through multiple communication mediums on the need to protect public health infrastructures and health services in their vicinity, especially those that have direct bearings on their physical, health and social wellbeing.

References

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