

## **REPOSITIONING WAREHOUSING FOR OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE IN NIGERIA**



*\*Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole inspects the Warehouse in a box Jabi, Abuja (July, 2016)*

Over the years, health commodity storage has been plagued by a number of over-arching challenges ranging from inadequate infrastructure, lack of proper storage conditions, staff attrition, product pilferage, expiries, wastages and inadequate drug distribution system.

To address these challenges, Nigeria is championing an integrated solution through the National Product Supply Chain Management Programme of the Food & Drugs Department of the Ministry.

This intervention is implemented in collaboration with international Donors like the Global Fund and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Populations Funds (UNFPA). It entails consolidating and storing commodities from national public Health disease programs with specific focus on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis & Leprosy, Malaria, Reproductive Health and Vaccines programs through the Nigeria Supply Chain Integrated Project (NSCIP) that has a scope period of three years of implementation.

The first phase involves the renovation and rehabilitation of select warehouses across the country which was concluded in 2014. The second phase has seen the project design a national warehouse template for selected disease areas and includes six (6) zonal storage hubs based on geographic/political spread, disease prevalence and strategic proximity to serve surrounding states.

The USAID with assistance of the Nigerian Government and other international Donors have identified Lagos and Abuja as locations to situate and assemble standard Pharmaceutical Grade Warehouses ('Warehouse in a Box') to complement and support existing storage structures in the country. The Lagos warehouse situated in the same premises with the Federal Central Medical Stores will be ready for use in 2017, while the Abuja hub has been completed. These warehouses have enough capacity to accommodate commodities from public health programmes including specialized cold storage for vaccines and some reproductive health products.

The Honourable Minister of Health & Chairman of the National Warehousing Advisory Committee (NWAC); Prof. Isaac Adewole who was on ground to inspect the magnificent Premier Medical Ware House, Abuja (as shown in lead photo above) noted that the structure will go a long way in improving drug storage in country and also act as a veritable platform in standardizing warehouse practices and operations using a sustainable business model.

To sustain this intervention, the Department of Food & Drugs under the leadership of Pharm. (Mrs.) G.M.O Chukwumah; through the Nigeria Supply Chain Integration Project have started and sustained efforts in key strategic areas driven by a self-sustaining business model.

These interventions are geared towards ensuring a robust/integrated national drugs storage system alongside a harmoniously efficient distribution network that gets commodities to Nigerians at health facilities in all parts of the country.