

REPORT ON THE EXECUTION AND COMPLETION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE THREE-YEAR (2009-2011) UPU, UNAIDS, ILO AND UNI GLOBAL UNIONS JOINT HIV PREVENTION CAMPAIGN .

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nigeria Postal Service (NIPOST) is one of the seven postal administrations selected globally in January, 2009 by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to pilot the Campaign to raise awareness of how HIV could be prevented among the general public and postal employees.

The initial phase was designed to raise awareness among the Postal Staff and their Host communities through the dissemination of information via posters, publicity materials and a national Launch. This was successfully carried out variously and finally on October 9, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Abuja.

2. CAMPAIGN PLANNING

Based on the information provided by the Universal Postal Union and the collaboration with other partners i.e. UNAIDS, ILO and UNI GLOBAL UNION, the following plans were evolved:

- II. A Joint Committee of NIPOST, UNAIDS and ILO was formed to plan for effective National Launch of HIV Prevention Campaign

“NIPOST CARES...PROTECT YOURSELF”

- III. Identification of needs and activities that culminated into the first phase of the Campaign i.e.

- a.) Internal Communication plan for Postal managers and Workers orientation.
- b.) Prepared a Budget for the execution of first phase.
- c.) Formation of sub-committees to help in the execution of approved lines of action.

3. CAMPAIGN DEVELOPMENT

I. A seven-man joint committee was formed to steer the Campaign activities.

The Committee members were:-

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|----|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| a) | Ujong, M. I. (Mrs.) | - | National |
| | Coordinator(NIPOST) | | |
| b) | Chimezie A. Chimezie | - | |
| | External Communication(NIPOST) | | |
| c) | Tpl. E. O. John | - | Internal |
| | Communication(NIPOST) | | |
| d) | Abubakar Ibrahim | - | |
| | Human Resource(NIPOST) | | |
| e) | Lord Dartey | - | |
| | Representative(UNAIDS) | | |
| f) | Princess Aderonke Are-Shodeinde | - | |
| | Representative(UNAIDS) | | |
| g) | Chinedu Moghalu | - | International |
| | Labour Organization(ILO) | | |

- II. Weekly meetings of the Joint Committee were held. Issues bothering on the packaging and implementation of all identified activities necessary for successful Campaign were resolved tactfully and effectively.
- III. A 30-man sub committee was formed in order to fast-track the implementation of actions.
- IV. The Area Postal Manager in all the various territories headed teams that carried out the simultaneous launch of the campaign on the World Post Day.

4. CAMPAIGN EXECUTION

- I. Orientation Workshop for Post Office Managers and Workers: Orientation workshops were conducted for NIPOST staff (especially Counter Officers) all over the country in order to sensitize them on the Campaign vis-à-vis the provision of information on HIV prevention to customers.
- II. Design, production and Distribution of Posters and other campaign materials: The joint committee adapted 3 out of 4 poster designs for the Campaign. The theme: *“NIPOST CARE, PROTECT YOURSELF”* was also adopted. The following items were produced and distributed all over Nigeria: Posters, T-shirt & Caps, brooch, Roller Banner, Invitation Cards, etc.
- III. National Launch: The National Launch was co-opted into the Annual World Post Day celebration on October 9, 2009. The event took place at Sheraton Hotel & Tower, Abuja by 10.00am. Nigerian time. It received a wide publicity through the electronic and print media. Dignitaries from different works of

life graced the occasion; this included the Honourable Minister of State for Information and Communication: Alh. Aliyu Ikra Bilbis; Director-General, National Agency for Control of AIDS; Country Coordinator UNAIDS; and the Postmaster-General of the Nigeria, Mallam Ibrahim Mori Baba among others. The accompanying photographs show the campaign launch at the National and State levels.

5. OBSERVATIONS

- I. It is worthy of note that the Nigerian Postal Service(NIPOST) gave her best to the campaign in terms of human, materials and financial resources, despite numerous constraints.
- II. This programme, despite the budgetary constraint, was executed without compromising quality and scope of outreach. It is estimated that about sixty million (60,000,000) people were effectively reached through the electronic and print media apart from the crowds that gathered at the campaign venues.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. The subsequent phase of this programme should be adequately provided for in NIPOST annual budgets.
- II. For greater effectiveness and wider outreach, Corporate Sponsorship for the programmes is hereby recommended.
- III. Reconstitution of the Joint Committee should be done to embrace related arms i.e. Senior Staff Association (SSA) and the national Union of Post &

Telecommunications Employees in NIPOST. This is absolutely necessary for the second phase of the Campaign.

7. OTHER PHASES

The second phase of the campaign revolves round Workplace Programming for NIPOST. This includes:

- a) Development of a Workplace Policy on HIV&AIDS:
 1. Itemize consultancy
 2. Training the Trainer workshop and
 3. Production of Draft NIPOST Workplace Policy on HIV & AIDS.
- b) Furthermore, there will be the need for Planning, Coordination and Evaluation of Draft Policy for Management approval.
- c) Sensitize and encourage staff participation in Voluntary Counseling and Testing Programme.

8. CONCLUSION

NIPOST, in collaboration with UNAIDS and ILO in Nigeria, executed the first phase of the Campaign successfully. The Joint committees will collaborate effectively with other government and non-governmental agencies involved in the fight against the HIV scourge in Nigeria. Following from the fall out of the first phase of the campaign, NIPOST is determined to sustain the effort through to the final phase that will culminate in the launching of a commemorative stamp in the year 2011.

Ujong, M.I.(Mrs.)

National Coordinator

For: JOINT NIPOST-UNAIDS COMMITTEE ON HIV PREVENTION.