

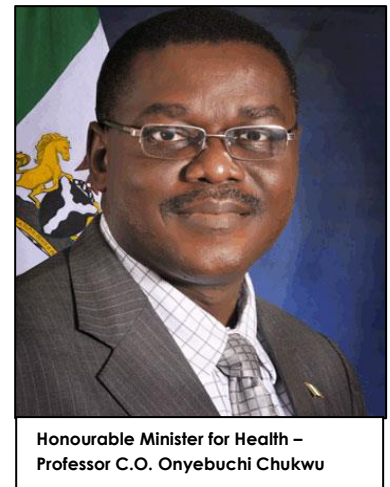


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NIGERIA IS AFRICA'S FIRST PRODUCER OF ANTISEPTIC GEL TO SAVE NEWBORN LIVES

25 March 2014|Bauchi, Nigeria – A decision that a Nigerian company, Drugfield Pharmaceuticals Ltd, has been granted regulatory approval to produce Chlorhexidine Digluconate 7.1% gel, was announced today by the Honourable Minister of Health, Professor C.O. Onyebuchi Chukwu. Chlorhexidine gel, a high impact, low-cost medicine prevents umbilical cord infections in newborns. About 30% of newborn deaths in Nigeria are attributable to infections, an obstacle to the attainment of the United Nations MDGs by 2015.

Professor Onyebuchi Chukwu spoke at the Bauchi State Health Council chaired by the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, His Excellency, (Dr.) Isa Yuguda, the second governor in Nigeria to invest in the statewide use of Chlorhexidine gel; and Misoprostol tablets to prevent post-partum bleeding. Commending Governor Isa Yuguda's leadership, Professor Chukwu also called on all states to invest in Chlorhexidine use, including 13 other lifesaving medicines recommended by the UN Commission for Life Saving Commodities, co-chaired by His Excellency President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan.



Honourable Minister for Health –
Professor C.O. Onyebuchi Chukwu

Dr. Nosa Orobato, the Chief of Party of the USAID/Targeted States High Impact Project (TSHIP) said: “We congratulate the Honourable Minister for the focused leadership leading to local production of Chlorhexidine. We praise the focused partnership of government, the private sector and communities. With nationwide use, Nigeria has a good chance to dramatically cut preventable newborn deaths ahead of the UN MDG 2015.”

USAID's JSI-led TSHIP helped to shape demand and supply for Chlorhexidine Gel, in close collaboration with Federal Ministry of Health and NAFDAC. USAID/TSHIP supports an informal network of prospective manufacturers of Chlorhexidine Gel.

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For further information, please contact:

Dagang Gang

Targeted States High Impact Project
Tel: +234 (0)802 357 8551
Email: dgang@tshipnigeria.org
Website: www.tshipnigeria.org

Matthew Osborne-Smith

John Snow, Inc
Tel: +1 617 482 9485
Email: mosborne-smith@jsi.com
Website: www.jsi.com