

# CASE STUDY

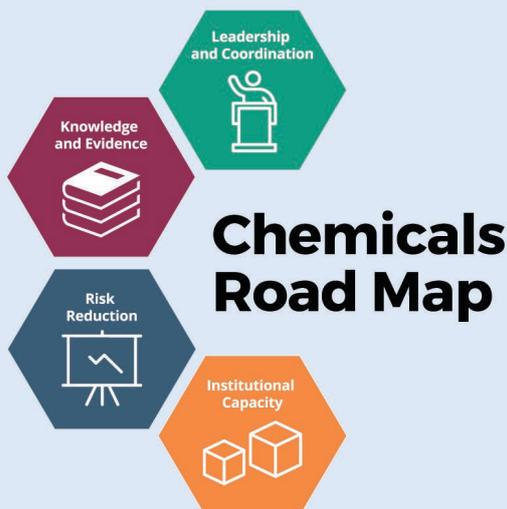
## Implementation of national guideline on the establishment of Poison Information Control and Management Centres in Nigeria

### Nigeria

The project aimed at preventing incidences of poisoning by engaging different stakeholders and undertaking actions leading to implementation of the guideline on establishment of Poison Information Control and Management Centres.

### Goals and Objectives

The main objective of the national guideline on Poison Information Control and Management Centres is to enable and support diagnosis, treatment and prevention of poisoning cases.



### Project Overview

#### Context

Poison Information Control and Management Centres (PICMCs) are specialized units that provide information on the management of poisoning cases and advise on the development, implementation and evaluation of measures for the prevention of poisoning.

In Nigeria, specific toxic risk identification would prove an arduous task as there are no readily available data for poison incidences. Most poison cases are not reported, while hospitals that do treat reported incidences are not fully equipped for the complete diagnoses and treatment of these cases.

#### Approach

Activities undertaken during the project:

- Production of draft copy of the National Guidelines on the Establishment of PICMCs by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH).
- Hiring of resource person for the project.
- WHO Nigeria gave the FMOH WHO guidelines for the establishment of poison management centres.
- Three health sector meetings were conducted to involve all health sector stakeholders in providing input for the national guidelines document.
- Health sector stakeholders adopted the guidelines document and the document was forwarded to national stakeholders in chemicals management.
- A technical working group worked to put final touches on the health sector document.
- Two national stakeholders' meetings were conducted for the national stakeholders to provide input on the document.
- The national stakeholders in chemicals management adopted the document and gave their final approval.
- The National Guidelines were printed.

The National Guidelines on Establishment of PICMCs in Nigeria were approved by the National Council on Health (NCH) in Nigeria.



## Results

The main results from implementation of the National Guidelines on PICMCs are:

- reducing morbidity and mortality from poisoning, and
- enabling the community to make significant savings in health-care costs.

## Lessons Learned

National, regional and global cooperation between health sector representatives and relevant stakeholders on chemicals management, and dedication of time to the work are vital for achieving success.

Technical and financial support is needed from development partners for the establishment of seven PICMCs in Nigeria.

The Guidelines on PICMCs in Nigeria should serve as minimum standards for the establishment of poison information, control and management centres for both the public and private sector in Nigeria.

Training of health professionals from the FMOH and staff of tertiary health-care facilities in Nigeria on the operation of PICMCs is necessary.

## Recommendations

- *Strengthen cooperation between poison information centres in Nigeria and with international organizations. This will be of value to both national and international programmes for toxicovigilance and prevention of poisoning.*
- *Share data on toxic risks to permit early warning of potential problems.*
- *Conduct follow-up studies on poisoning.*
- *Promote awareness of special requirements concerning the control and regulation of chemicals, including the labelling and packaging of products.*
- *Conduct training of health professionals on operation of PICMCs.*
- *All concerned should include provision for chemicals management in their budget.*

The case study was authored by the Federal Ministry of Health of Nigeria. The named authors alone are responsible for the views expressed in this publication.

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