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The Executive Governor of Benue State, Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia, and Suzanne Theroux, Acting Country Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Nigeria commission a state-of-the-art Molecular Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Laboratory in Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Makurdi, Benue State.

Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria – 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

APIN Public Health Initiatives, a leading non-governmental organization dedicated to the prevention, treatment, and management of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, is proud to announce the commissioning of a cutting-edge Molecular Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Laboratory at the Federal Medical Center, Makurdi.

Federal Medical Centre, Makurdi is one of APIN's supported facilities under the U.S CDC-funded Accelerated Comprehensive AIDS Response for Epidemic Control and Sustainability (αCARES) project. Through this facility, APIN supports the Benue State HIV response by providing comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care services to all population groups. The PCR Laboratory plays a critical role in this, supporting accurate laboratory investigations including viral load assessments and Early Infant Diagnosis (EID). The lab also serves as a hub, receiving and processing samples from **other states**.

Over the last decade, the U.S. CDC, through APIN Public health Initiatives, has supported the upgrade of the PCR laboratory by supporting the provision of state-of-the art laboratory equipment and infrastructure, capacity building and training culminating first in a 1-star rating by a team of ASLM/SLIPTA auditors, and then in a SANAS ISO 15189:2012 accreditation in December 2022.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, 2024, the Executive Governor of Benue State, Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia and the U.S CDC Acting Country Director will jointly commission the new state-of-the-art PCR laboratory of FMC Makurdi and officially present the SANAS accreditation certificate to the management of the facility.

The commissioning of the PRC Lab reflects APIN Public Health Initiatives' continued commitment to improving healthcare infrastructure, strengthening laboratory systems, and building local capacity. Through collaborative efforts and sustained partnerships, APIN strives to empower healthcare institutions and professionals, driving positive change in the fight against infectious diseases across Nigeria.

### About APIN Public Health Initiatives

APIN Public Health Initiatives is a leading NGO with headquarters in Abuja, and operational offices in Benue, Nasarawa, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo and Plateau states, that addresses diseases of public health importance and mitigates their impact using cutting-edge approaches in public health program management, capacity building, research and health information management in partnership with other stakeholders. More information about APIN Public Health Initiatives can be found at [www.apin.org.ng](http://www.apin.org.ng).

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### Other Information

**Our Name:** Our organization's name is written as **APIN Public Health Initiatives (in full) or APIN (as an acronym)**.

### Our Practice Areas

We initially started out implementing projects to address HIV/AIDS. Twenty years later, we have diversified our practice areas to include thematic areas such as Malaria, Tuberculosis, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition and Primary Health Care System Strengthening. We operate in six Nigerian states: Benue, Nasarawa, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo, and Plateau states.

### Key guests at the event

- The Executive Governor of Benue State Governor, **Rev. Fr Hyacinth Iormem Alia**
- The Acting Country Director, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Nigeria, **Suzanne Theroux**
- The Honourable Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Benue State, **Hon. Dr. Yanmar Ortese**
- The Chief Medical Director, FMC Makurdi, **Professor Joseph Namgwa Kortor**
- The ART Team Lead, FMC Makurdi, **Dr. Bem Tar**

— The Chief Executive Officer, APIN Public Health Initiatives, **Dr. Prosper Okonkwo**  
**Pictures of the FMC Makurdi Molecular PCR Mega Lab**



*Figure 1: Full view of the PCR Laboratory*



Figure 2: Hologic Panther Testing Platforms



Figure 3: Abbott Alinity Testing Platforms



Figure 4: EID Testing bench using 8-module GeneXpert machine