



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE COORDINATING MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

HMH/ABJ/541/I/31

13th September, 2024

His Excellency
Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia
Executive Governor Benue State
Government House,
Makurdi

Your Excellency,

Submission of Expression Of Interest to participate in the Human Capital Opportunities for Prosperity and Equality—HOPE-HEALTH Program

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the implementation of the **Nigeria Health Sector Renewal Investment Initiative** launched by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on December 12th, 2023, and supported by a Sector Wide approach compact which was jointly signed by State governors and development partners. The compact is a determination to fast-track improvements in health outcomes across the country.

2. The rationale for the SWAp compact is to address poor health outcomes. Life expectancy, at 54 years, is the third lowest in the world. Under-five mortality is the second highest globally, at 114 per 1,000 live births, while maternal mortality is third highest in the world, at over 1,000 per 100,000 live births. These numbers translate to over 800,000 deaths among children under five and about 80,000 maternal deaths each year. The prevalence of stunting among children under five is 37 percent, one of the 10 highest rates in the world, with long-term implications for human development. While there is wide variation across states, even better-performing states in the Nigerian context are significantly under-performing vis-à-vis their global peers.
3. To address these issues frontally, the FMOH&SW has worked closely with the World Bank, Federal Ministry of Finance, and other development partners to prepare the HOPE-Primary Healthcare (HOPE-PHC) program tackling service delivery challenges. This will be complemented by the HOPE-GOVERNANCE (HOPE-GOV) program geared at resolving upstream challenges that affect delivery of health. Subsequently, the President has approved the establishment of the Sector-wide Coordinating Office-

Programme Management Unit (SCO-PMU) domiciled in the Office of the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare.

4. Further to this, we are happy to invite your state to participate in the HOPE-PHC program. To participate in the program all states are to note the following important information:

- a. States agree to participate in HOPE-GOV to ensure structural foundations are laid for sustainable primary healthcare financing.
- b. State adopts and signs **Funds Release Policy** for management of PforR earnings. See attached.
- c. State prepares **Annual Operational Plan** that aligns with the goals of the Sector Wide Approach as articulated in the signed Health Compact. In this regard states are expected to align the development of their FY2025 health budget with the priorities articulated in the SWAp compact.
- d. State revises the composition of the existing Basic Healthcare Provision Fund State Oversight Committee in line with guidelines provided by the FMOH&SW to include membership from the State Ministry of Finance; Budget and Planning; office of the state accountant General; State Hospitals Management Board; Civil Service Commission; development partners operating in the state and any other relevant entity.
- e. We expect to receive this information in the EOI from your state by close of business on 25th September 2024.

5. We believe, Your Excellency, that, in view of the poor health outcomes in the country, the opportunity in the HOPE-PHC will enable states such as yours to rapidly transition to improved health outcomes and directly support your vision of achieving good health outcomes for your citizenry.

6. Once again, I thank you for your partnership and collaboration and look forward to the participation of your state in this very important program.

7. Please accept the assurances of my high regards.


Muhammad Ali Pate, CON

Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare



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