



MEETING REPORT: ACIOE FOUNDATION STAKEHOLDERS MEETING WITH KADUNA STATE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Venue: Tajir Hotel, Kano

Date: 20th February 2025

Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Introduction

ACIOE Foundation held an introductory meeting with the Kaduna State Ministry of Health (Commissioner of Health) to foster collaboration and secure government buy-in on the Maternal Health Advocacy and Communication Project. This project, funded by MSD for Mothers, is being implemented in Lagos, Ekiti, and Kaduna States.

Attendees

1. Umma K. Ahmed - Hon. Commissioner of Health, Kaduna State
2. Dr. Aishatu Abubakar Sadiq – Permanent Secretary, SMOH
3. Dr. G.J. Goyere – DHS, SMOH
4. Aminu Abdullahi - SMOH
5. Pharm Abubakar Isa – DPS, SMOH
6. Dr. Abubakar Sadiq – DPH, SMOH
7. Dr. Joseph Sunday - DHPRS, SMOH
8. Innocent Isichei – ACIOE Foundation
9. Ibukun Ajeigbe – ACIOE Foundation
10. Yohannes Iliyas - ACIOE Foundation (Advocacy Consultant)

Agenda

- Introduction of attendees
- Overview of the advocacy and communication project
- Discussions and questions
- Next steps and follow-up actions

Meeting Objectives

To discuss the Maternal Health Advocacy and Communication Project and seek the government's collaboration.

Opening Remarks

The meeting commenced with the Honorable Commissioner highlighting the importance of the project discussion for Kaduna's health sector.

Overview of the Advocacy and Communication Project

The ACIOE team provided a summary of the Maternal Health and Communications Project. The project, funded by MSD for Mothers, focuses on two key areas:

- Increasing access to healthcare financing for private healthcare providers.
- Strengthening digital health solutions to improve service delivery.

Key project details:

- ACIOE Foundation leads advocacy efforts, while Nigeria Health Watch manages communication.
- The project complements MSD's efforts in Kaduna, Lagos, and Ekiti States by addressing gaps in healthcare financing and digital health adoption.
- A summit on private healthcare financing is scheduled for March in Lagos, with invitations extended to Kaduna representatives.
- A baseline assessment will be conducted to evaluate the state of digital health and healthcare financing in Kaduna.
- The project aims to enhance private-sector investment in healthcare and explore innovative financial models to increase coverage.

Strategies Discussed

Healthcare Financing Strategies:

- Implementing microinsurance models for rural communities.
- Partnering with financial institutions to support private healthcare providers.
- Engaging regulatory bodies such as the Central Bank and policymakers.
- Developing innovative financing mechanisms for primary healthcare.

Digital Health Strategies:

- Implementing electronic medical records (EMR).
- Leveraging technology to enhance frontline healthcare service delivery.
- Assessing the state's readiness for digital health adoption.

Concerns Raised by the Kaduna State Ministry of Health

- Limited access to private healthcare financing in underserved rural areas.
- Challenges in integrating private and public healthcare sectors.
- Low adoption of digital solutions in primary healthcare centers.
- Persistent gaps in healthcare funding despite various interventions.
- Budgetary provisions and public-private partnerships are needed to scale up solutions.
- Stagnation in health insurance coverage, with only 5% utilization in the state.
- The necessity for private sector engagement to expand healthcare coverage.
- Feasibility concerns regarding digital health adoption in remote areas, highlighting the need for customized approaches.

Next Steps and Follow-Up Actions

- Baseline Assessment (April 2025): Obtain ethical approval from the state before proceeding.
- Participation in the Private Health Financing Summit (March 2025): The DG of KADCHMA will attend the Lagos summit.
- Stakeholder Consultations: Conduct follow-up discussions to identify key gaps and align advocacy efforts with the Ministry's priorities.
- Policy Recommendations: Incorporate findings from the baseline assessment and advocacy discussions into a memo for the National Council on Health (November 2025).
- Further Engagements: Maintain continuous dialogue between ACIOE, financial institutions, and regulators to drive policy shifts and secure health investments.

Conclusion

The Honorable Commissioner acknowledged the significance of the discussions and reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to collaborating with ACIOE and its partners. ACIOE expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with Kaduna State and looks forward to implementing tailored solutions to address its healthcare needs. The meeting

concluded on a positive note, with both parties committed to strengthening healthcare financing and enhancing digital health systems.

Pictures



