



## **Ekiti State High-Level Stakeholders Dialogue Report**

**Theme:** *Creating an Enabling Environment for Digital Health*

**Date:** 17 February 2025

**Venue:** G-Bos Hotel, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State

The Ekiti State High-Level Stakeholders Dialogue was convened to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders and advance digital health integration to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes. The dialogue brought together key government stakeholders, development partners, implementing organizations, and private-sector actors to strengthen collaboration, review progress, and define actionable steps to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes through digital innovation. The dialogue had 57 participants from across the state's sectors.

### **Objectives of the Dialogue**

The meeting was convened to:

- Present progress and updates of the Maternal Health Advocacy and Communications (MHAC) Project in Ekiti State
- Amplify the achievements from the mDoc digital health intervention
- Disseminate key findings from the ACIOE Foundation's rapid assessment
- Highlight ongoing digital health interventions, identify gaps, and define priority areas
- Secure stakeholder alignment on strengthening the enabling environment for digital health accountability

### **Opening Session**

The meeting commenced at 10:40 a.m. with the introduction of key stakeholders, including Permanent Secretaries, Directors, and sector representatives.

Opening remarks were delivered by:

- **Dr. Olasunkanmi Alao (PS, Hospital Management Board)** – emphasized the importance of digital transformation in healthcare.
- **Dr. Charles Doherty (GM, EKHIS)** – highlighted the relevance of innovation in strengthening health systems.



- **Dr. Dairo (ES, SACA)** – encouraged active participation.
- **Dr. Olusola Gbenga-Igotun (PS, MOH)** – reaffirmed the State Government’s commitment to digital health.

Additional goodwill messages were delivered by stakeholders, including representatives from Nigeria Health Watch (NHW) and mDoc, while the Honorable Chairman of the House Committee on Health also expressed legislative support.

### **Key Presentations and Discussions**

#### **MHAC Project Update**

ACIOE Foundation presented progress on the MHAC project, highlighting ongoing advocacy efforts to improve maternal health outcomes through policy engagement, private sector collaboration, and digital health integration.

#### **Rapid Assessment Findings**

The rapid assessment conducted in Ekiti State identified critical areas requiring intervention:

- Need to institutionalize private sector engagement
- Acceleration of digital health integration
- Strengthening healthcare financing pathways

These findings provided strong evidence base for policy and programmatic action.

#### **mDoc Digital Health Innovation:**

mDoc presented updates on the Digital Mom Project, including:

- Digital coaching and maternal health support services that provide women with mentors as soon as they register for antenatal care and support them throughout their pregnancy journey.
- Referral systems connecting women to healthcare facilities, including in hard-to-reach areas.
- Use of digital platforms for patient engagement and follow-up.

Additionally, the NaviHealth.ai platform was showcased as a tool for:

- Capturing patient feedback



- Strengthening referral systems
- Enhancing accountability through real-time data insights

### **State Digital Health Status and Gaps**

The Ministry of Health presented ongoing digital health interventions:

- Deployment of EMR systems across 29 PHCs and 7 secondary/tertiary facilities, and coverage across the entire 16 LGAs in Ekiti State.

### **Key challenges identified:**

- Lack of ICT focal persons at the PHC level
- Fragmented (standalone) EMR systems
- Data quality and integrity issues

### **Priority focus areas:**

- Interoperability of systems
- Capacity building
- State-wide digital adoption

### **Stakeholder Engagement and Key Insights**

Interactive discussions between stakeholders highlighted several critical insights:

- Low awareness of health insurance schemes requires increased community sensitization
- Persistent gap between ANC attendance and skilled birth delivery
- Need for inclusive programming, including male-involvement programmes
- Importance of strengthening referral tracking systems to mitigate lost to follow-up
- Need for improved workforce support to reduce clinical burden and waiting times in health facilities

### Presentation of Advocacy Asks to Ekiti State Government

The advocacy ask developed by the ACIOE Foundation was formally presented to the Honourable Commissioner of Health, Ekiti State, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, for consideration and action, which was agreed on. The Asks include;

S/N	Asks
1	Create a Digital Health Desk in the State Ministry of Health
2	Endorse and fund the development of a state digital health policy within the next budget planning cycle.
3	Establish a functional Technical Working Group (TWG) for digital health.
4	Advocate for integrating digital maternal health indicators into DHIS2 reporting.
5	Expand the Ulerawa State Health Insurance Scheme to all healthcare facilities in the state (public and private).
6	Honorable Commissioner for Health to commit to sustaining and scaling up the Digital Mom’s models and strategies in all public health facilities in Ekiti State.
7	Allocate funding to scale up digital maternal health innovations across all LGAs in Ekiti State.



*Presentation of the Advocacy Brief to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health during the meeting.*

### Agreed Next Steps

Actions	Notes	Responsible persons
Create a Digital Health Desk in the State Ministry of Health	Done	Ministry of Health
Endorse and fund the development of a state digital health policy within the next budget planning cycle.	After the TWG/ Commitment, this will be done	
Establish a functional Technical Working Group (TWG) for digital health	Commitment that this will be done	DPRS/ MOH
Advocate for integrating digital maternal health indicators into DHIS2 reporting.	Commitment that this will be done	HCH MOH/ PS MOH
Expand the Ulerawa State Health Insurance Scheme to all healthcare facilities in the state (public and private).	50 additional public Health facilities last December-More to be added	DPRS EKHS
Honorable Commissioner for Health to commit to sustaining and scaling up the Digital Mom's models and strategies in all public health facilities in Ekiti State.	The State is committed	PS SMOH
Increase funding to scale up digital maternal health innovations across all LGAs in Ekiti State.	The state is committed	DPRS SMOH

ANNEX

