

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE UNDER ONE ROOF POLICY**

An experience sharing meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June, 2017 at the Rockview Royale Hotel, Abuja

The Primary Health Care system in Nigeria has been challenged by fragmented and multiple management structures resulting in poor provision of services to a vast majority of the populace. The Primary Health Care Under One Roof (PHCUOR) policy is a new Primary Health Care (PHC) governance reform initiative designed to unify all PHC structures and programs at sub-national levels, under one State level body (Primary Health Care Boards/Agencies) to ensure accountable and more efficient health service delivery.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is partnering with our Secretariat and the Network for Health Equity and Development (NHED) towards fast tracking the implementation of this policy across the 36 states of the country, using sustained advocacy, experience sharing and peer learning activities.

Our Secretariat therefore, organized a meeting for the State Executives of Primary Health Care Boards in collaboration with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and other development partners. The objective of the meeting was to identify key challenges faced by states in the implementation of this policy and also share experiences and successes.

All State Primary Health Care Board executives except for **Ogun** State was represented at the workshop.

Findings from the workshop showed that all but three states, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Edo, currently have Primary Health Care Boards/Agencies.

Key challenges faced in the implementation of the Primary Health Care Under One Roof Policy are in the following areas:

- Movement of Primary Health Care staff and programmes from the State Ministry of Health and the LGAs to the State Primary Health Care Boards
- Sustainable funding for the Boards and Primary Health Care programmes
- Availability of qualified human resources for health for the Primary Health Care Boards.

In charting the way forward, it was agreed that quarterly meetings of this nature will be organized for the Executives of the State Primary Health Care Boards.

The NGF secretariat also reaffirmed its commitment to mobilizing political support and commitment to the implementation of this policy.