

BRIEF FOR GOVERNORS' FORUM ON 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF ABUJA COMMITMENT TO POLIO ERADICATION

Background:

On 2nd February 2009, the 36 State Governors under the auspices of the Governors' Forum had a meeting with Mr. Bill Gates, the President of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The meeting was a special session on health convened by His Excellency, Alhaji Umaru Yar'adua, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Governors, in their determination to rid Nigeria of the scourge of poliomyelitis, committed themselves to 5 actions aimed at ensuring a polio-free Nigeria and improving Primary Health Care. The 5 Actions are:

1. Providing active leadership of Polio eradication activities (including routine immunization) and primary health care, in general, in the State and directing LGA Chairmen to ensure that all children under 5 years are reached and vaccinated during any polio eradication activity in the State;

2. Improving the operational quality at the LGA level in our States by Chairing quarterly meetings with all the LGA Chairmen to loosely review the planning, & implementation, and results of polio eradication activities, routine immunization/primary health care and identify remedies for poor-performing LGAs;

3. Allocating additional financial and human resources to strengthen Primary Health Care so that it can sustain routine immunization services and improve implementation of campaigns (Immunization Plus Days) in the State;

4. Reporting back to H.E. the President through NEC on a quarterly basis on the status of polio eradication efforts, including routine immunization, in the State.

5. Improving Primary Health Care as a more holistic plan to addressing the issue of immunization through community health insurance schemes.

Indicators for Performance

Following these commitments, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), the FMOH parastatal with the mandate for PHC, including immunization, has been tracking the implementation of these actions. It used five and four indicators were measured to assess the level of implementation of Abuja commitments at the State and LGA levels respectively. These include:

Indicators for measuring Performance at State Level

1. Personal involvement of HE Governor in public event in preparation for the May 2009 IPDs e.g. meeting with key stakeholders, flag off ceremonies
2. At least one meeting between Governor (or his representative) with LGA chairmen to discuss priority actions to improve operational quality of May round
3. At least one meeting between Governor (or his representative) with traditional leaders to review their involvement in the May round

4. Presence of State Task Force or similar high-level inter-sectoral committee at State Level with high level oversight over preparations and implementation
5. At least one meeting of State Task Force or similar high-level oversight committee prior to May 2009 IPDs.

Indicators for measuring Performance at LGA Level

1. Personal involvement and engagement of LGA chairman in preparation for the May 2009 IPDs e.g. meeting with key stakeholders, flag off ceremonies
2. Presence of functional LGA Task Force (or equivalent LGA coordination mechanism)
3. Proportion of LGAs where the LGA Task Force (or equivalent LGA coordination mechanism) had at least one meeting prior to the May IPDs
4. Proportion of LGAs where daily IPDs review meeting chaired by high level LGA official i.e. LGA chairman or LGA HOD/PHC Dept

At the end of August 2009, NPHCDA prepared and presented an interim report of the performance of the States to State Immunization Teams at Zonal Review Meetings. The report concluded that the Governors' support has resulted in increased momentum and improved polio immunization activities in many areas.

However, the goal of interrupting the transmission of poliomyelitis has not been achieved. At the end of 2009, Nigeria had XXX wild poliovirus cases in xx States.

Proposal for Marking the First Anniversary of the Abuja Commitments

The NPHCDA is therefore proposing a Forum to mark the first anniversary of the Abuja Commitment and present the update on the performance of each State. The objectives of the Anniversary are as follows:

- To recognize the Governors' efforts to secure a polio-free Nigeria through implementation of the Abuja Commitments
- To ensure wide understanding amongst the Governors and all stakeholders of the progress and challenges, State by State, in implementing the Abuja Commitments to Polio Eradication in Nigeria through presentation of an analytical report and "scorecard"
- To demonstrate how successful implementation of the Commitments has resulted in improved immunization outcomes
- To secure specific actions in every State to implement the Abuja Commitments in 2010 based on an analysis of strengths and gaps
- To engage the media in quality reporting of the progress and remaining urgent challenges in securing a polio-free Nigeria.

Expectations from Governors

1. Each Governor to brief their February meeting (Governors Forum) on what they have implemented on the 5 actions the Governors committed themselves to; discuss challenges and way forward/next steps.
2. The FORUM to allow NPHCDA to present the update on the performance of each State and publish same in the media.
3. To grant audience to NPHCDA and Partner Agencies to discuss the implementation of the Abuja Commitments.