**COMMUNIQUE FROM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOML-PforR**

The roundtable discussion on CSOs’ involvement in the SOML-Pfor R (Saving One Million Lives Program for Results) held in the conference room of the SOML-PforR office on 13th April, 2017. In attendance were CSOs working in either intervention for direct provision of health services and/or monitoring at the community or rural level. The discussion, which was initiated by Connected Development [CODE] recognized the fact that there is a need for Civil Society to be carried along in the implementation processes of SOML-PforR to create greater cohesiveness between all arms of the society (government, private and civil society).

The Paying for Results (P4R) approach was introduced: it is a tool structured towards redirecting the flow of resources to pay for results (desired goals, outcomes and impacts) rather than paying for inputs (processes or activity costs).

In the first year disbursement, each of the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory got 1.5 million US Dollars (about 400 million Naira) to support health programs and interventions targeted at improving specific health indicators in their respective States. For States to get additional funding in the subsequent year and thereafter, they MUST show improvement in six DLIs (Disbursement Linked Indicators) namely:

**1.** **Vaccination coverage (Penta 3)**

**2. Contraceptive prevalence rate (modern methods)**

**3. Vitamin A coverage**

**4. Skilled birth attendance**

**5. Insecticide treated nets being used by children under 5**

**6. Women being tested for HIV during Ante Natal Care**

Accordingly, this will stimulate States to:

i. Pay better attention to health outcomes in their States rather than focusing on inputs or activities;

ii. Begin to prioritize the collection of robust data on service delivery at community and health facility levels and put mechanisms in place for sharing the data and getting feedback both from government and the citizenry;

A key point of discussion that came out of the Roundtable was the fact that the overall goal of the SOML-PforR is to improve the overall health systems in the States, and States should see this as an opportunity to strengthen the health systems in their States since they are getting the fund and are at liberty to spend it to improve the DLIs without interference from the Federal Government.

All the Organizations present agreed that the Roundtable was a step in the right direction in changing the narrative about the relationship between Government and Civil Societies in Nigeria. This will not only serve as a form of checks and balance on both sides but will help to engender TRUST and the values of Open Government in the Nigerian society.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

i. A Committee of **CSOs for SOML-PforR** in Nigeria should be set up to monitor the implementation of the SOML-PforR in all 36 States and the FCT.

ii. The activities of the CSOs and all other partners should be directed to **FOLLOW THE RESULTS** with the hashtag **#FollowTheResults**

iii. A framework should be put in place for the involvement of CSOs at the States and community levels for implementation of SOML-PforR to include CBOs, community leaders, stakeholders and other key players as well as citizens.

iv. The CSOs coalition should have sub-committees headed by chairs so that the CSOs can hold one another accountable and ensure that results come out of this coalition.

v. A separate Roundtable Discussion should be organized for media engagement on the SOMLP-forR to bring a larger number of the media to understand how the program works so as to drive the correct messages to the public.

vi. As communities are the direct beneficiaries of majority of the program plans, they should be engaged effectively in the program implementation as a way to piggyback information and increase accountability and trust at all levels of the society.

**Commitments from SOMLP-forR program team**

i. To see to the effective representation of the CSOs coalition through the coalition leadership at both the National and States Steering Committees of the SOML-PforR;

ii. To continue to maintain an open-door policy and proactively engage the Civil Society and the media on issues concerning implementation of the SOML-PforR

**Commitments from Connected Development CODE**

i. To host the next **#FollowTheResults** CSOs meeting to cover a larger body of Civil Society Organizations;

ii. To publish a shadow report on the implementation plans submitted by all the 36 States and the FCT outlining key recommendations based on and after full investigations into all other sources of revenue and areas of intervention in the various States;

iii. Building on her community reporting networks to host **#FollowTheResults** States and regional meetings

**Commitments from Silver Lining for the Needy Initiative (SLNI)**

· To host sub-committee meetings

**Commitments from African Youth Initiative on Population, Health and Development**

**(AfryPOD)**

· To provide technical support at all stages of the CSOs for SOML-PforR involvement

**Commitments from Public and Private Development Center (PPDC)**

· To provide radio airtime for SOML-PforR on her BUDESHI Radio platform.