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CODE signs MOU with NPHCDA to strengthen health sector accountability

The National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and Nigeria's leading civil society organization, Connected Development (CODE) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen and foster health sector accountability in Nigeria.

The MOU is a vital step towards enabling CODE further expands its tracking and evaluation of Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) across the country, to inform its advocacy in canvassing for improved primary healthcare infrastructure and service delivery.

In July 2021, using its FollowTheMoney social accountability tool, CODE tracked 90 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) in 15 States across the country and found that 80 percent of PHCs are substandard and unfit to store, and effectively administer COVID-19 vaccines - a situation that has hindered access and equitable distribution of vaccines to Nigeria's large population.

CODE, through the COVID-19 Transparency and Accountability Project (CTAP), is committed to tracking all resources from public sector, private, multilateral and bilateral donors committed to COVID-19 pandemic, with the aim of establishing sustainable accountability in the health sector.

Being the parastatal of Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health responsible for the development of primary health care delivery system in Nigeria, the NPHCDA, coming in agreement with CODE, guarantees a path towards uncovering gaps in the healthcare system and introducing best practices to Nigeria's health sector.

Speaking on the significance of signing such an agreement, Hamzat Lawal, Chief Executive of CODE, submitted that the first step towards achieving a better healthcare system in Africa is to identify and proffer solutions to the gaps that currently exist in the system.

"A large number of Nigerians, especially those living in remote communities, rely on PHCs for their health concerns. There exists a myriad of challenges within the Primary Healthcare system which we're working to uncover with the aim of identifying solutions that will improve service delivery and enhance the healthcare system in Nigeria and all across Africa," Lawal said.

On his part, Dr Faisal Shuaib, Executive Director / CEO of the NPHCDA, commended the step CODE is taking towards promoting transparency and accountability in the healthcare sector.

"This kind of partnership is a giant step towards transparency and openness in the NPHCDA. This MOU signing is an opportunity to openly demonstrate this transparency. We welcome this collaboration because it is also an opportunity to hear from people we serve. It is an opportunity to get feedback on the services that will deliver. More than 70 percent of PHCs across the country do not have the right infrastructure, right drugs, utilities and limited healthcare workers.



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Collaborations like this will provide opportunity for CSOs to evaluate, gather data and advocate for more resources and it will be funneled towards strengthening the PHC sector in Nigeria," he said.