

GHS2024

CONCEPT NOTE FOR LISDEL'S BREAKFAST WORKSHOP WITH SUPPORT FROM GHAI AND GHS2024

Theme: Strengthening health security policy, investment and institutional frameworks at national and subnational levels: lessons from CSO-led initiatives in Nigeria

Background & Rationale

Civil society is broadly understood as the sphere of organized social activity that exists outside of the state and market sectors, comprising diverse voluntary associations, organizations, and networks. Civil society organizations (CSOs) are characterized by their voluntary nature and pursuit of collective interests, often focused on advancing public good, promoting social justice, and fostering democratic participation. The impact of civil society extends across various sectors of life, including education, health, security, environment, labour, and beyond.

Over the years, civil society organizations (CSOs) have evolved through the work of multilateral organizations and the strengthening of democratic governance, leading to increased partnerships with government institutions to achieve social objectives. With nearly a decade of experience in Nigeria's health system, the Legislative Initiative for Sustainable Development (LISDEL) exemplifies the vital role of civil society in using partnerships with government actors to drive and sustain public investment in the health sector. LISDEL emerged as an evidence of Nigeria's legislature's commitment to collaborating through the Legislative Network for Universal Health Coverage (LNU) to address legislative gaps for health development in the country. Our engagement has expanded beyond the legislative arm of government to include elected executives, ministries, departments, and agencies at all levels.

In Nigeria, LISDEL's efforts have led to a substantial improvement in government investment, and efficient utilization of resources towards strengthening Nigeria's health system. With the development and establishment of various accountability systems and mechanisms as well as deployment of accountability campaigns, LISDEL has been recognized by both national and subnational governments as a formidable partner towards attaining sustainable development goals.

With its extensive work with diverse government stakeholders in Nigeria since 2020 through its Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) funded Prevent Epidemics (PE) Program in Nigeria, LISDEL's efforts have been instrumental in improving transparency, identifying bottlenecks, optimizing budgetary performance, and monitoring impact, particularly within the health sector and for epidemic preparedness and response in particular. LISDEL has contributed and led the development of a Health Security Financing Accountability Framework that provided critical evidence for civil society led strategic engagements and advocacies for improved financing for health security since the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has led to significant increases in health security investment not only at the national level, but also at the subnational levels in Nigeria. The framework is currently being institutionalized as an accountability and monitoring framework/tool for health security in the country based on Nigeria's Action Plan for Health Security (Nigeria NAPHS) and the JEE tool.

Nigeria is further showing examples and probably leading other decentralized systems in sub-Saharan Africa on the adaptability of evidence-based health security interventions for subnational levels. With pilots in some of the most populous States in Nigeria – Kano and Lagos, the PE Program has contributed to optimizing the political economy in these States for the adaptation of health security initiatives, mobilize local resources and monitor the adaptation of standardized health security planning and assessment tools/systems. This strategy has further contributed to improved policy,

legal and institutional arrangement as well as financing for health security in both States. This progress is currently being institutionalized as targets for a peer review and peer learning system for all the other States in the country.

During the Global Health Security Conference (GHS2024) LISDEL is being supported by the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) and the organizers of the GHS2024 to host a breakfast workshop to showcase important and innovative approaches of CSOs-led initiatives contributing to Nigeria's progress in improved health security investment and strengthened policy and institutional structures in Nigeria's national and decentralized health systems.

Workshop Objectives

1. Share insights on the status of epidemic preparedness and response (EPR) financing, policy architecture and outcomes pre-PE Program intervention era in Nigeria.
2. Highlight roles and contributions of local CSOs led-health security initiatives and lessons from key interventions with support from the PE Program.
 - Attendees will learn about the roles of local CSOs and how they can be supported towards achieving high impact interventions in strengthening countries' health security apparatus.
 - Attendees will learn about Nigeria's citizen-led Health Security Financing Accountability Framework, how it has become an important tool for evidence generation and how it has engendered strategic engagements for improved health security investments, PFM processes and outcomes.
3. Share key achievements, knowledge and lessons from adaptable initiatives at the subnational levels for decentralized systems and linkages towards strengthening national, regional and global preparedness for health threats.

Workshop Approach

The workshop objectives would be delivered using presentations and plenaries.

Speakers

1. **Dr Emmanuel Alhassan**
(In-country Coordinator, Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI), Nigeria).
2. **Ademuyiwa Bamidele Damilola**
(Director of Programs, Legislative Initiative for Sustainable Development (LISDEL))
3. **Shuaib Muhammad Inuwa**
(Kano State Coordinator, Prevent Epidemics (PE) Project, Legislative Initiative for Sustainable Development (LISDEL), Nigeria).
4. **Abdullahi Hamza Hassan**
(Kano State Coordinator, Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI), Nigeria).