

SECRET

JUNE 2018

NCH/61/003H

**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER ON NATION-WIDE WHO STEP-WISE SURVEY ON
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

1.0 PURPOSE:

1.1 The purpose of this memorandum is to intimate Council on the efforts by FMOH to conduct nation-wide step survey, last done in Nigeria in 1991, and seek Council's approval for all States to make financial commitments towards the conduct of the survey.

2.0 BACKGROUND:

2.1 Non-Communicable diseases (NCDs) are now the leading cause of death globally. In 2012, a total of 56 million deaths occurred worldwide, 38 million (63%) of which were due to NCDs and nearly three quarters (28 million) of these occurred in low and middle-income countries including Nigeria. In 2014, the WHO NCD country profile estimated that 24% of all deaths (500,000) in Nigeria were due to NCDs out of which 7% are due to cardiovascular disease, 3% cancers, 2% diabetes and 1% chronic respiratory disease.

2.2 Surveillance is a key strategy contained in the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs to track the trend of NCDs in member States with reporting implications. Besides, reliable data on NCDs is imperative to guide evidence-based policymaking, planning and formulation of effective and efficient programs that will reduce the burden of these chronic diseases in Nigeria.

2.3 To this end, WHO developed a tool for conducting STEP-Wise survey for countries to deploy every four years. Unfortunately, Nigeria is one of the few countries in Africa that is yet to conduct a recent National NCD STEPs survey due to perennial budgetary constraints for NCDs in the country. This has placed the country at a disadvantaged position especially as the survey is one of the commitments contained in the Political Declaration by Heads of Government at the High Level Meeting of UNGA in 2014, of which Mr. President is obligated to report on at the next High Level meeting in September 2018.

2.4 The last nationally representative survey on NCDs was conducted in 1990/1991; hence, interventions on NCDs have been carried out in the country without evidence and therefore inefficient. Therefore the FMOH recognized this as a priority and with the support of WHO initiated the process for a nation-wide survey in 2016. Efforts so far include several stakeholders meetings, constitution of Survey Management and Survey Implementation Committees, development of protocol, NHREC approval, and development of budget, amongst others.

2.5 The estimated budget for the survey is **Five Hundred and Thirteen Million, One Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Twenty Naira (₦ 513, 114,920) only**, excluding cost of materials, which the WHO has pledged to provide. It has therefore become evident that the FMOH cannot bear the whole financial burden alone, and necessary for States to make financial commitments to defray fieldwork in the respective States. This informed the letter Ref NCD/5623/I, which the HMH endorsed to all the States on 15th December, 2017, copy attached as annex 1.

3.0 CONTENT:

3.1 The survey will provide the prevalence of the major NCDs and their risk factors in Nigeria, disaggregated at the Geopolitical Zones. The sample size of 27,750 obtained using the WHO recommended formula would be distributed equally to all the 36 states and Federal capital Territory (FCT), with each State having a sample size of 750.

3.2 The survey will involve enumeration and house listing in the states/LGAs; different levels of trainings for those involved in the fieldwork, supervision and data processing; pilot testing and actual fieldwork. In each State, there would be 3 teams comprising of 5 personnel per team (2 interviewers, 1 Doctor, 1 lab scientist and 1 nurse). These teams would work for 3 weeks, covering 30 clusters/enumeration areas (EA) in each state with 25 households selected from each cluster/EAs. It is expected that most of the fieldworkers will be selected from the states using criteria set by the Survey Implementation Committee.

3.3 The funds from the States will largely be used for the actual field work in the respective states. The States will be responsible for the direct disbursement of the allocated funds to all the field workers in the State, including the National monitors in line with the survey guidelines and upon approval from the Chairperson of the Survey Management Committee.

3.4 Of the estimated budget of **Five Hundred and Thirteen Million, One Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Twenty Naira (513,114,920) only**, which excludes WHO in-kind contribution, the FMOH will commit **One Hundred and Fifty million Naira (₦ 150,000,000) only** to cover pilot survey, training for fieldworkers in four geopolitical zones, data management, report writing, survey insurance cover, and lunching and dissemination of report. States are expected to provide a total of **Two Hundred and Forty Two Million, Seven Hundred and Six Thousand, Eight Hundred Naira (₦ 242,706,800) only** for the survey fieldwork in their States, as detailed in annex 2. This leaves a balance of **One Hundred and Twenty Million, Four Hundred and Eight Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty naira (₦ 120,408,120) only**, which the FMOH is advocating to Development Partners to contribute. This would fill the gap for training of field workers in the remaining 2 geopolitical zones and house listing.

4.0 **PRAYERS:**

4.1 The Council is invited to:

- i. **note** that NCDs are fast outpacing communicable diseases as leading causes of evidenced by rising incidences of sudden death due to NCDs;
- ii. **note** that there is no current nationally representative data on NCDs to guide policy formulation and planning of interventions on NCDs in Nigeria;
- iii. **note** that perennial budgetary constraint has undermined the conduct of the NCD STEPS survey over the years;
- iv. **note** the efforts of the FMOH to actualize the survey in Nigeria;
- v. **note** that the Step Survey is a commitment made by Heads of Government at UNGA in 2014 and the president is expected to give an update at the next UN high level meeting slated for September this year;
- vi. **note** that financial commitments from States and FCT is needed to achieve this highly important survey for tracking the trend and effective control of NCDs in Nigeria; **and**
- vii. **approve** that every State and the FCT make financial commitments as indicated in Annex 2 to defray the cost of survey fieldwork in their States.

Honourable Minister of Health
June 2018