

Secret

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**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH, ABIA STATE ON REQUEST FOR SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN MALARIA ELIMINATION PROGRAM IN ABIA STATE**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this memo is to secure the approval of Council for FMOH to support Abia State through linkages with partners and investors to reduce morbidity and mortality due to malaria in Abia state.

**Background**

Malaria has led to the tragic loss of lives and robbed many households and communities of their livelihoods, locking them in a vicious cycle of illness and poverty. Malaria is the major cause of death among the most vulnerable groups in Nigeria (a child under 5 dies from malaria every 30 minutes) and over 90% of the population is at risk. 50% of the population will have at least one episode per year; 30% childhood mortality and 11% maternal mortality is associated with malaria. In all, malaria is responsible for about 66% of all clinic attendance. But mortality and morbidity due to malaria is preventable.

The importance of partnerships and inter- sectoral cooperation to achieve program goals and more cost effective interventions cannot be underscored, hence the need to strengthen human resources and national surveillance systems and to sustain funding for malaria control in Abia state. Effective malaria control and elimination require universal access of all at-risk populations to effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment measures as well as strong community involvement. Therefore, the success of the fight against malaria impacts positively on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Abia state focuses on eliminating malaria through support strengthening including the following:

- ensuring access for all at-risk population to appropriate and effective vector control measures, early diagnosis and safe and effective anti-malarial treatment.
- Conduct of replacement campaign of long lasting insecticidal treated nets(LLINs).
- Strengthening state surveillance systems to monitor malaria trends and program impact, to detect and control outbreaks in a timely manner, and encouraging regular and transparent data reporting and sharing.
- maximizing services utilization through appropriate advocacy, communication and community mobilization which is a powerful tool to support the long term political and financing commitment necessary for malaria elimination.
- strengthening the capacity for research at all levels through training, increased funding and networking. promoting capacity building and training consistent with national malaria elimination plans to all stakeholders in the state.

**CONSIDERATION**

Council is invited to consider and note the efforts of Abia State government in eliminating malaria:

- I. widening the use of sports as a tool for malaria prevention. Our football development sector plays a role in educating the youth by providing mentors and recreational activities that keep them together with spectators. During this period, they are provided with support, they are sensitized on malaria prevention strategies, as well as availed access to early malaria diagnosis and treatment services.
- II. distribution of Long Lasting Insecticide Nets(LLINs) especially in Health Facilities through ANC,EPI and SOML during Maternal and Child Health Weeks.

iii . in malaria elimination , Abia state is an orphan state with no partners and donors, leading to irregular availability of commodities and other resources.

- There is therefor need for more concerted efforts and synergy in surveillance, integrated vector management (including promotion of alternative measures like insecticide treated mosquito nets), more coordinated inter-sectoral partnerships .

- There is need for proper resource allocation.

**Prayer :**

Council is invited to graciously:

- i. approve that the Federal Ministry of Health supports Abia State through linkages with investors and partners to reduce morbidity and mortality due to malaria as there is currently no partner in the state malaria program.
- ii. promote increased inter-agency collaboration ( Ministries of Health, Finance, Agriculture and Environment) as this will play a critical role in the drive towards elimination.
- iii. promote the conduct of joint operational research between the malaria programme and academia to fill programmatic gaps.

HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH, ABIA STATE

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